

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LV.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 18th January, at Nagasaki, the wife of J. KRAUSS, of a daughter.

On the 18th January, at the Wesleyan Mission, Hankow, the wife of the Rev. H. B. SUTTON, of a son.

On the 20th January, at Pootung, the wife of H. M. THOMPSON, I. M. Customs, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 6th January, CHARLES HUNT, Imperial Maritime Customs, to EMMA LOUIZA, only daughter of L. J. TANDBERG.

On the 21st January, at the Church of Our Saviour, Broadway, Shanghai, by the Rev. Benj. L. Ancell, MARGARET, daughter of Mrs. ELIZA MACPHERSON, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., to ALBERT OWEN LOOSLEY, of Ningpo.

DEATHS.

On the 21st November, at his residence, Anerley, Surrey, EDMUND READ, eldest son of the late EDMUND READ, formerly of Shanghai and Canton, aged 84 years.

On the 22nd January, at No. 11, West End Lane, Shanghai, WINIFRED DOROTHY, second daughter of BENJAMIN and FANNY WANSTAL, aged 9 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

There have been no arrivals of mails during the week.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Emperor of Japan is understood to have sent a telegraphic message to Peking, congratulating the Emperor and Empress Dowager on their safe return to the city.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—We are authorised to contradict, officially and absolutely the report that the Italian Government has demanded of China a lease of Sanmen Bay.

According to Tientsin reports, a number of missionary chapels and compounds have been destroyed in Chihli and several converts injured, whether fatally or not has not as yet transpired.

Shanghai native papers mention another candidate for the post of Special Ambassador to King Edward's coronation in the person of the son of Prince Ching, who has moreover a good chance of being selected.

Sir Claude MacDonald, British Minister to Tokyo, telegraphed to London a few days ago that Prince Komatsu will proceed to England to represent the Japanese Emperor at the coronation of King Edward VII.

The *N.-C. Daily News* gives the following as the disposition of the first indemnity payment from China to the Powers:—Russia, 29 per cent; Germany, 20; France, 15.7; Great Britain, 11; Japan, 8; United States, 7; Italy, 6; Belgium, 2; Austria-Hungary 1; Holland, 0.2; Spain, 0.1. Our contemporary understands that this is only a temporary arrangement, the commission being not yet definitely constituted or instructed.

The *Universal Gazette* learns from a recent arrival from Kirin, Central Manchuria, that the Russians, with the intention of introducing Russian colonists into the country, have pretended to the Manchurian officials that there is a serious famine in Siberia and Russia, and therefore ask leave for 10,000 Russian "refugees," including their women and children, to settle for a time in Kirin, and also that several thousand huts be built there for the "refugees" by the Chinese officials. The Tartar General of Kirin, Chang, is therefore in a quandary, and called recently on the Russian Governor at Harbin asking that the entrance of the "refugees" into Kirin be deferred until the spring, to give him time to arrange the matter.

A Shanghai native paper stated last week that the Central Government at Peking has sent peremptory orders to the provincial authorities at Canton commanding the turning over to the control of the Imperial Maritime Customs in that city without delay the ordinary native customs administration. This arose through strong opposition to the new step by vested interests in Canton, amounting almost to resistance *vi et armis*. According to news received in Hongkong on Thursday, the Hoppo of Canton has been obliged to yield to the Imperial orders and the native customs are about to pass into the hands of the I. M. C. authorities. The change is to be effected as from the 8th of February, Chinese New Year's Day.

A correspondent writes to a vernacular journal in Shanghai:—"According to a report in the Shanghai foreign press, the Court has issued a Decree for the decapitation of the notorious Tung Fuhsiang. But, from the most reliable authority here, I learn that such a Decree was never issued. The Court has only decreed the perpetual imprisonment of Tung Fuhsiang. This Decree was issued on the 4th instant when the Court was still in Pao-pingfu."

The Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* writes:—"The Russian Minister wrote lately to the Chinese Plenipotentiaries as follows: I have an agreement made with the late Li Hung-chang that no other nation shall have anything to do with any future foreign-disciplined army of the Peiyang. I am therefore surprised that your Government is about to engage Japanese military officers to organise and discipline the new army of the Peiyang. As such a step affects the interests of my country, I must ask for a reply to my despatch." To this the Plenipotentiaries replied: "The disciplined army of the Peiyang is intended for the suppression of malcontents and desperadoes. There is no other object in view. With reference to the engagement of Japanese officers his is only a report without any foundation."

Viceroy Yuan Shikai, according to the *N.-C. Daily News* Peking correspondent, has secretly memorialised the Throne suggesting certain reforms in the formation of the Chêngwu Ch'u (Board of Government Affairs):—(1) That there should be engaged an Advisory Staff consisting of a Briton, an American, a Japanese, a Russian, a German, and a Frenchman. (2) The officials of each province shall send two or three well-known enlightened and experienced men, who thoroughly understand the needs and condition of their own provinces, who shall form an advisory staff on provincial affairs. (3) To invite and avail of the services of men who have been abroad and possess good education and experience, regardless of the rank they hold. (4) To select able and talented men from the Foreign Ministry. The above were four of Viceroy Yuan's principal suggestions for the reform of the Government.

According to a Chinese report from Tientsin, the foreign Ministers have agreed to hand back the administration of the city of Tientsin to the Chinese authorities on the 5th March next. The same authority states that before his death the late Li Hung-chang was approached by the Italian authorities, who requested him to use his influence to persuade the Chinese Government to grant them a concession at Tientsin. But Li Hung-chang rejected the demand and the Italians felt very much disappointed. Subsequently, however, they seized a large piece of land on which are many native houses, on the east bank of the Tientsin River. They have since improved the roads and built a Police Station on the land. But they impose a greater tax on the houses within the limits of the land than that collected in Tientsin by the Tientsin Provisional Government. It is said that the Board of Foreign Affairs in Peking will take up the matter in hand soon and ask the Italians why they took the land before the Chinese Government consented.

GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

(Daily Press, 27th January.)

Probably in no quarter of the world is the present state of feelings between Great Britain and Germany more regretted than in this Colony of Hongkong, where for so long Britons and Germans have lived and worked side by side in the fullest accord and friendship. The temporary discords which have hitherto disturbed Anglo-German harmony never found an echo here. For this reason we have been loth in the past to discuss the new anti-British agitation in Germany and the resulting attitude toward Germany in England. It is necessary, however, to face the situation, unpleasant as it may be, and the telegrams which we publish to-day in another column from the Ceylon papers call for our attention. REUTER has already given us the main outlines of the situation, but up to now we have had no precise details. We knew of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's speech, of Count von BULOW's "rebuttal," as some were pleased to call it, and of the farther reply of the Secretary for the Colonies. We also learnt that the British and Continental Press was greatly stirred by this verbal passage of arms. We are now in possession of some fresh details, which show the state of feeling to be worse than was feared. Much, no doubt, is due to the oratorical indiscretion of the two Ministers who play the leading parts in the quarrel. As for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's original speech at Edinburgh, it is difficult to see what real ground of offence toward Germany there was therein. The German critics whose anger was roused by it relied on translations for the text of it, and were accordingly misled, as has been acknowledged by the more honest of them. Count von BULOW, however, in his speech on the 8th instant, took upon himself to lecture Mr. CHAMBERLAIN on his lack of caution, which, he said, was "more regrettable in the case of a Minister referring to a country which had always entertained friendly relations, the continuance whereof was of equal interest to both parties." The German Chancellor further implied that some sort of apology had been made in the explanations furnished of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's words. The effect of this on the latter was to draw from him a defiant speech at Birmingham on the 11th instant, in which he repudiated the idea of an apology being called for, adding that he "would not follow the example set him, did not want to give lessons to a Foreign Minister, and would not accept any; he was responsible only to his Sovereign and his countrymen." To make matters worse, he affirmed the hostility toward England to be of a century's duration and always ready to break out in our times of difficulty. Viewed simply as a fighting speech, this no doubt was excellent, but it did not tend to render Anglo-German relations easier, and a more tactful statesman would have avoided still further embittering feelings. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, no doubt, had been stung by the mild attitude taken up by the Chancellor over the gross insult levelled at the British Minister by a member of the Reichstag who proclaimed him to be "the most accursed scoundrel on God's earth." The same gentleman stated that the British Army was composed of thieves and brigands. That such language should be passed over even with what REUTER describes as a severe censure is of little credit to Count von BULOW or to the dignity of the German Reichstag, and it is hardly therefore to be wondered at that the lead of the Times has been followed widely in England.

We should like to think that the reported view of part of the German Press, that differences between England and Germany resemble a "family squabble," is correct, but we fear that the analogy is unconvincing. As for the immediate result of the present disagreement, it is most probable that German trade with Great Britain will suffer a severe blow. We cannot but suspect the correspondent of exaggeration who tells us that "everything German is now cordially hated" in England. The time is doubtless favourable for English manufacturers to carry on a vigorous campaign against the purchase of articles "made in Germany," and a corresponding encouragement to home industries may be looked for. The effect of this may indeed be permanent, but Count von BULOW was perfectly right when he insisted on the weighty interests connecting Britain and Germany and the necessity of peaceful and friendly relations. The material loss to Germany occasioned by the official toleration of atrocious calumnies, disproved again and again but as often maliciously revived, will afford the German Chancellor excellent food for reflection in the future and provide him with potent arguments to address to future Reichstags. In the meantime, the best course for those who have the cause of international concord sincerely at heart is to use their efforts in behalf of the suppression of violent speeches. An embargo on public speaking in Britain and Germany for the next six months, coupled with a censorship of the Press, would clear the situation of difficulties. We are not, however, in Utopia, and we must rely on commonsense to check the abuse of language which has produced so strained a situation.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S REPORT.

(Daily Press, 30th January.)

We do not think that the Sanitary Board is to be congratulated on its decision to cut down the number of assistant surgeons to be engaged for the investigation of suspicious deaths and actual cases of plague, house-to-house visiting, etc., from seven (as proposed by the Medical Officer of Health) to five. Before the termination of the discussion the President of the Board insisted on the advisability of an unanimous vote, and in accordance with this the strong stand made by the Hon. A. W. BREWIN was sufficient to secure a reduction, on the understanding that more should be got later on, if necessary. Now the five who are to be engaged from India are to be allotted between them the ten health-districts of the city, and the two who have been dropped are those who were to have examined persons going to and arriving from Canton and the Chinese mainland. Professor SIMPSON's thirteenth recommendation, in the report published by us yesterday, reads as follows:—"In Hongkong, with its proximity and daily intercommunications with Canton and Macao, which appear not to be free of plague, it is necessary to prevent as far as possible the importation of plague, because every such importation is likely to add to the number of infected centres. This requires arrangements and medical officers for the inspection of incoming passengers from these places. Possibly in the Port as in the districts assistant surgeons from India trained in plague work could be employed under supervision." This deliberate expression of opinion is therefore to be set aside. In addition to this, Dr. CLARK stated on Thursday that he

was not satisfied that the medical inspection of people (arriving by boat) was useless, for he thought it had never a fair chance. Moreover, he expressed his opinion that two men were competent to examine the 2,000 people who, roughly speaking, come to Hongkong from the mainland daily. In the face of Professor SIMPSON's and Dr. CLARK's opinion the Board decided not to attempt any such examination. Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, who strongly supported the Register-General's side of the question, remarked that the Chinese are "so afraid of the sanitary measures of the Colony" that Hongkong is the last place they will come to. The obvious answer to this is that if they know that they will be inspected before landing they are still less likely to imperil Hongkong by trying to come here when ailing, and that the inspection is an additional protection. From this point of view, even if the inspection only revealed two cases as in 1894, it would serve its purpose. The Sanitary Board, however, allowed itself to be persuaded out of adopting the opinion of the expert who has been procured from home at no small cost and of the Medical Officer of Health for the Port. We do not think we are alone in considering that a grave mistake has been made at the outset of the campaign against our greatest scourge.

A SCHOOL FOR EUROPEAN CHILDREN IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 31st January.)

The welcome news which reached the Colony at the beginning of last week that the Colonial Office was prepared to accede to Hongkong's request for a school, aided by Government, for European children exclusively, does not of course imply that henceforward all is plain sailing and that no difficulties remain in the way. The home authorities have recognised the reasonableness of the petition from Hongkong residents, strongly backed by official support, that a system of education should be attainable by children of European parents, of a better character than is as yet provided; and they have promised their support to the scheme. The details, however, remain to be settled, and upon their satisfactory settlement depends the success of the boon for which European parents here have up to now striven hard. At the present moment there is sitting in the Colony an Education Commission, appointed by H.E. the Governor, which has under its consideration the general question of schools and teaching in Hongkong. Among the matters before the members of this Commission the subject of the now promised European school will naturally take an important place. We do not, however, think that they alone are concerned in the affair from this time forward. We may feel certain that the learning of the wishes of the European parents here will occupy some of their time. Nevertheless, it seems to us that the parents would do well for themselves and their children if they were to take a certain initiative themselves. The relations between the European community and the Government have been so cordial over the educational question that a continuance of the co-operation seems natural. If it be possible, we would suggest that the excellent organisation of the committee which drew up the petition to Sir HENRY RLAKE be revived, either formally or informally. That committee suggested three main points in the petition, but naturally shrank at the early stage in the movement from entering minutely into particulars. The points suggested were:—(1) that the

school ought to combine Primary and Secondary education, with an adjustment of the scale of fees accordingly; (2) that religious teaching should be obtainable; (3) that some arrangements for boarding should be provided. It will readily be understood that these suggestions do not by any means cover the whole field, and that though they may be accepted as general principles upon which to act they give a quite inadequate idea of what the parents who would utilise the new school desire for their children. It seems to us, we repeat, that the parents would do well now if they were to take some action. Their petition has been met in a gratifyingly prompt and friendly way, and this demands in turn that they shall not now sit down and wait. It would be exceedingly unsatisfactory if a spirit of indifference were now to gain upon them, and if, leaving the rest of the task to the authorities—assisted only by what evidence the Commission can collect—the parents were to wait to criticise the work done when it is too late. The position is now, if we may so express it, that it stands up to the parents to act. We are sure, from the keenness manifested at the time of the education petition, that there is no real indifference, and that all that is wanted is that the parents should clearly see that there is something waiting for them to do. It is urgent, however, that this "something" should be taken in hand at once. The advantage of getting together the old committee, if possible, would be the saving of time on preliminaries. It may be held that the number renders this body cumbersome, especially as there are one or two who might with advantage be added to make it more representative at the present moment. This difficulty might be met by the committee selecting from themselves a sub-committee to do the actual work necessary. We feel certain that, if this course of action be taken, the European community will be benefitted, the hands of the Government strengthened, and the future of higher education in Hongkong made immeasurably brighter. It is not our intention here to point out what are the subjects which the revived committee would discuss. The previous deliberations of the old committee, which resulted in the petition to Sir HENRY BLAKE, covered, we believe, all matters of importance, and the time for recurring to them will arrive shortly. For the present what is needful is that those European residents who have children to be educated here and all others who take an interest in the teaching question should see that work lies ready for them to do at once. We cannot believe that they will then neglect it.

Out of fourteen sailing vessels chartered in Java, last year, four were British. The steamers chartered came to 294, of which 120 were British. Of these steamers, 120 flew the Dutch flag, and 50 the German. The total net register tonnage of the steamers amounted to 599,689 R.T., against 667,804 R.T. in 1901, thus showing a decrease of 71,115 R.T. The tonnage used for the carriage of other produce than sugar, in regular services, amounted to 264,645 R.T. net, against 311,163 in 1900 and 246,050 in 1899, used for the same purpose. The decrease is to be attributed for the larger part to a smaller crop of coffee, tobacco, and copra. Prospects for 1902 are more favourable as far as coffee and tobacco are concerned, and the quantity of other produce shipped by these lines is steadily increasing. The Government coffee-crop shows only a small excess above the quantity sold at Batavia. During a large part of the year many steamers of the regular services to Holland sailed with considerable open space. For want of cargo it was found necessary to alter the destination of some steamers which were first fixed for loading at Java and now had to seek employment elsewhere.

MISSIONARY TROUBLES NEAR SWATOW.

(Daily Press, 28th January.)

On the 27th November last we published a letter from our Swatow correspondent, in which were certain remarks on the subject of "missionary interference" in the Swatow neighbourhood. The *North-China Daily News* reproduced the story contained therein, and immediately received an indignant protest from a correspondent on behalf of the Roman Catholic clergy. On the 7th December we published the termination of the incident according to our Swatow correspondent, and to this our Shanghai contemporary alluded in commenting on the letter sent to it. We dealt with the whole matter in our issue of the 21st ult., simply stating that we had no reason to doubt our correspondent's bona-fides and pointing out that the writer of the *North-China Daily News* admitted having no local knowledge of the affair. In its issue of the 22nd inst. the Shanghai journal published part of a letter from Père PENICAUD, dated Hongkong, the 5th January, which gave his version of the affair. This runs as follows:—

"A Christian Catholic boatman to whom I had entrusted a number of packages for missionaries in the interior, having had the misfortune to collide with another boat, was promptly struck with a bamboo. A Chinese struck under such circumstances never neglects to avenge himself by hurling bad words at his aggressor and my boatman doubtless did not deny himself this facile revenge. A battle followed, the Catholic boat was attacked, and its cargo reduced to fragments. Warned of what had occurred, and satisfying myself that the Mission boxes were completely destroyed, I complained to the mandarin. Four runners were sent to the scene of action and, like my Christian, they got a good beating; one of them was indeed dangerously contused. Thus it came about that a double charge—by the Swatow mandarin and by myself—was made at the sub-prefect's Court, and that one of the assailants was imprisoned. Seeing that they were in a mess, the men who attacked the Catholic boat came to beg me to settle the matter. I proposed to them to pay for the damage done, but they declined and preferred to call in a third party as expert. With my consent the affair was so arranged and the charge at the Court was withdrawn. The expert chosen by the accused fixed the indemnity at \$300 to be paid to the Christian attacked and the Mission whose goods had been broken. That is all. The \$300 did not go into the coffer of the Swatow Mission, because the boatman who was attacked received \$120, and the balance was employed in replacing the goods destined for other Catholic missionaries in the province. The man who was imprisoned was not so treated by my order or at my request, but by the mandarin whose runner he had wounded. It is possible that the latter laid another charge, but as to this I know nothing. This is the whole story as to which the *Daily Press* has made such an outcry."

We are glad to have the opportunity of publishing the above statement, since though we invited a refutation of the story as given by our correspondent no reply whatever was forthcoming until this appeared in the columns of a contemporary. We may mention that we have recently received from our informant at Swatow an asseveration of the correctness of the story as related by him and not denied until now. The matter may be left here. No "outcry" was made by us. The correctness of our correspondent's report having been doubted, we asked

for a refutation. Père PENICAUD's response has been to send above-quoted letter to Shanghai. This tardy rejoinder is now before our readers, who may be left to form their own opinions on the "affair at Swatow."

(Daily Press, 29th January.)

In connection with what we wrote yesterday on the subject of a recent affair at Swatow the letter which we publish to-day from our correspondent at that port furnishes an instructive commentary. Our correspondent writes informing us of a most regrettable outbreak of fighting between Roman Catholic and Baptist converts at Tung Poa, in Kwangtung Province. This arose over an entirely secular affair—it is said that the ownership of certain paddy-fields was involved—and in no way differed from the clan-fights which are common in the Swatow neighbourhood. Five deaths resulted from the fighting, and the Chaoyang Magistrate, within whose jurisdiction the disturbance occurred, asked the Rev. Dr. W. ASHMORE, of the American Baptist Missionary Union, to settle the dispute amicably. Dr. ASHMORE, however, refused to take advantage of his position as local head of the Baptists and requested the Magistrate to deal with the case according to Chinese law. This procedure is at once just and honourable, and if all missionaries would equally abstain from intervention in non-religious affairs the course of missionary work in China would be far smoother. No doubt the Chaoyang official feared, in the first place, to give offence to a missionary whose converts were concerned in a troublesome affair and would have been glad to shelter himself behind a foreigner in event of any untoward consequences. In this case, however, the foreigner, though he might have pleaded the Magistrate's appeal to him in defence of his interference, referred the Chinese official to the laws of his own country which deal with such occurrences as the dispute in question, refusing to subscribe to the mischievous system of an *imperium in imperio*, which has led so many missionaries astray. Those who really desire to see better relations between foreigners and natives in China will applaud Dr. ASHMORE's action, and will hope that it will find many imitators. Such conduct does much to advance the missionary cause.

MUSIC FOR THE PUBLIC.

(Daily Press, 27th January.)

The notification published in another column under the title of "Music for the Public" is one that will generally be received with much pleasure. From this week onward a military band will play weekly on the new Parade Ground for the benefit of the public, and if sufficient appreciation be shown by the attendance it is probable that the band will play more often. This welcome innovation is due to the desire of H. E. the ACTING GOVERNOR to provide a form of public amusement, for late years lacking in Hongkong, but one which is enjoyed by most of our neighbours. One of the pleasantest features of social life at Shanghai is the daily music in the public gardens, and even Macao has its public band. It will no doubt be many years before this Colony, which takes life so sadly, can expect to be as privileged as Shanghai; why it is difficult to realise, but the thoughtfulness of the ACTING GOVERNOR has provided a beginning. It is for the public to show their appreciation by attending the weekly performances; for if the movement be well supported it possesses not a few possibilities. We are sure it will be welcomed by all.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 28th ult. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General (Vice-President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Colonel J. Hughes, D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chün, Mr. Lau Chupak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

PLAGUE PREVENTION.

The PRESIDENT said—Gentlemen, this meeting has been called to consider Professor Simpson's recommendations with reference to plague prevention, and to state which are urgent and which we think ought to be acted upon at once. You know our main difficulty here is with reference to the obtaining of the necessary medical staff for combating this disease when it is epidemic. It is impossible for us to trust to the Army and Navy. They have helped us in previous years, but we cannot get enough assistance—European medical men—unless of course we obtain them from England; and that is impracticable, at any rate, so far as this year is concerned. Professor Simpson seems to think that it is much better for us to obtain more medical men at once before the disease really becomes epidemic, so that we shall have some one on the spot to detect the first cases that occur. I will ask the Secretary to read the medical Officer of Health's minute, which places in a concrete form Professor Simpson's recommendations. After that, if you agree with me, I think it will be advisable to consider this matter in Committee for there are several things to discuss.

The SECRETARY read Dr. Clark's minute, which was as follows:—I have discussed this question fully with Professor Simpson, and I beg to recommend (with his concurrence) the adoption of the following measures for anticipating and combating an outbreak of plague:—

1. Five assistant surgeons from India, specially trained in plague work, for the ten health districts of the city. The duties of these assistant surgeons will be the investigation of all suspicious deaths, the tracing out of the sources of infection, the investigation of cases, house-to-house visiting, and so on. Each of them should be provided with a small office in his district, and each office should be in telephonic communication with the Sanitary Board office, and should have a telephone clerk. The office would serve as a depot for reporting all suspicious deaths or cases and all insanitary conditions, and should be used also by the senior inspector of the two corresponding districts, so as to bring the people of the immediate neighbourhood into touch with the sanitary officers. The office would also be of service as a place for the inoculation of Haffkine serum.

2. Two assistant surgeons for the examination of all persons going to and arriving from Canton and the mainland of China, so as to prevent the introduction of infection into the Colony as far as possible; and the dissemination of the disease by sick persons.

I understand that the above assistant surgeons could be obtained for \$160 a month and quarters (or a house allowance of \$40 a month), and they should be engaged for a period of eight months and should be asked for by telegram.

The above-named seven doctors are in addition to the three asked for yesterday, and it is proposed to put one of these three in Kowloon, with an office on the telephone, as in the city, and a telephone clerk, while the other two are to be engaged in the examination of rats.

The PRESIDENT—I beg to move that the Board goes into Committee.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded and the motion was agreed to.

Dr. CLARK—I may mention that the reason why Professor Simpson has suggested Indian surgeons is rather one of expediency—because he thinks they are necessary. He says it is quite possible that European doctors would be better in some respects than Indian officers, but we cannot hope to get doctors from Australia—that seems almost impracticable—and it will take us longer to get doctors from England, and we

shall have to pay very much larger sums for them than for the Indian doctors. Professor Simpson tells me that in the service of the Indian Government they had ten of these district inspectors and these were each paid £750 a year, with quarters, and even then they were difficult to get. It is not an easy matter to get doctors who have had experience in plague work, and of course those who have had no experience are not so valuable; and he suggested these Indian surgeons accordingly. Professor Simpson, however, wished me to explain to the Board that it was not because he had any particular preference for Indian doctors but rather on the ground of expediency—that they can be more easily got, at considerably less cost, and more rapidly. Of course, too, they will probably have had far more experience in plague work in India than any doctors we could get out from England.

Col. HUGHES—I see the recommendation is for an eight months' engagement.

Dr. CLARK—Yes; that of course dates from the time of the appointment in India.

Col. HUGHES—And for seven additional surgeons.

Dr. CLARK—We have asked for three already, so that there are in all ten.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—The only matter, sir, I have any doubt in my own mind about is whether the Chinese population generally will submit to the inspection, by these Indian medical men, of their houses and dwellings. I imagine that there would be great objections on their part to Indian medical men entering their dwellings and examining them to see whether there were any cases of sickness. That objection would be overcome in a great measure at any rate if they were Europeans—if they were British doctors; and I think it would be worth while to enquire, at least, for five or seven men does not seem a very large number to attempt to get from a city like Melbourne or Sydney or some of these places; and I think it would be well worth an effort to enquire any way and see whether the services of such a number of men could be obtained.

The PRESIDENT—From Australia?

Hon. W. CHATHAM—Yes.

Col. HUGHES—I think there is no doubt we are all agreed that extra help is wanted. I think the matter is urgent. Last year you had about ten assistants from the Army, but the Board certainly cannot get any assistance from me this year, because now we are short-handed and I am trying to get another man myself. So that that is out of the question. There is no Indian assistance provided this year, like last year, and whether they are Australian doctors or medical subordinates or Indian assistant surgeons, I think there would be a tremendous lot of time wasted if you applied to Australia. As to these men that Professor Simpson proposes, as I told you before, I have had great experience of them in India, and I know as a rule they were excellent men; and a lot of these assistant surgeons were white men; they were not all Indians.

The PRESIDENT—Some of them Parsees?

Col. HUGHES—Eurasians and Anglo-Indians. Any amount of men in our service were treated by these subordinate assistants, and many of them were white men. As to the Chinese objecting, the thing has to be done, whether they object to it or not. Personally I should advise that application should be made to these men at once. I even doubt whether we shall get them easily from India.

The PRESIDENT—Even from India?

Col. HUGHES—Yes, considering the way India is in just now, I do not think they will be easily got. The Government is very hard pressed for Government medical officers and also for subordinates. The plague season is practically on and there has been something like 3,000 deaths. I do not think you will get them for the prices you are willing to pay. Then I see that a seven or eight months' engagement is proposed. If you got them before the middle of February, that would carry them on to September. I would suggest about six months.

The PRESIDENT—I should think six months might do. The disease generally declines here in the end of July.

Col. HUGHES—What would you pay those Australians that you suggest, Mr. Chatham?

Hon. W. CHATHAM—I may say, sir, that what Colonel Hughes has said practically removes my objection. If he thinks it practicable to obtain the services of Anglo-Indians such as he has referred to, there would be of course no object in applying elsewhere. It is simply that I think the Chinese would be reasonably entitled to object to black doctors.

The PRESIDENT—Another reason why the Indians would be of more use is that they are not so liable to be affected by the climate here in the summer months.

Col. HUGHES—In regard to the objection of the Chinese, the same objection might be advanced in the case of the British troops in India.

M. OSBORNE—I think the Chinese would prefer the Indians to the Australians.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—If we were to get Japanese I think we would prefer to have them. Of course I do not know whether you would care to have them.

Dr. CLARK—But the Japanese cannot speak English and cannot speak Chinese.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—When they want anything they can put it on paper. They can write Chinese.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Their work would be mainly a house-to-house visitation to ascertain whether anybody is suffering from plague; they would not require much Chinese for that.

The PRESIDENT—Their main duty will be to maintain a general sanitary supervision over a district, more especially in regard to deaths, in order that we may know when the disease is commencing.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Is it proposed that these men should do a good deal of the work that just now falls to the inspectors?

The PRESIDENT—Yes, especially with reference to inquiries into the causes of death.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Well, some of the members think that in a question like this we should not consider the feelings of the Chinese, but there is this point to be considered—that if we go in opposition to them in any measures we propose to take, the usefulness of these men is very largely diminished, and I think that is a reason why this consideration should be taken into account. If the Japanese could do this work of inspecting plague bodies as well as the Indians, and if we think the Chinese would prefer to have this house-to-house visitation carried on by Japanese, I think it would be quite proper to encourage them.

Col. HUGHES—How are we to find out what the Chinese prefer? There have been any amount of Indians here for years—watchmen and so on—and they get on well with the Chinese.

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—I do not think they are on good terms with the Indian watchmen.

Col. HUGHES—Are they with the Japanese?

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—I think the Japanese are preferable.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I have spoken to the leading Chinese here and they all say they prefer to have Japanese.

Col. HUGHES—I move that Professor Simpson's recommendations be adopted.

The PRESIDENT—I think it is as well before we come to a decision that we should hear what the Chinese have to say.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Well, some gentlemen gave me their opinion yesterday, and as far as they are concerned the opinion seems to be fairly equally divided. When I say that, I do not refer to the poorer classes. They unanimously say that they would prefer the house-to-house visitation to be carried out by Chinese. I am afraid we cannot go behind their opinion as to this matter. I would hesitate to put myself in opposition to that.

Mr. OSBORNE—I think, sir, if we had Japanese, we should find them very difficult to deal with. They would object of course to the Chinese obstructions being placed in their way. I think the chances are that they would not remain here long. The Indians would be more amenable to representations made and would remain here during the plague season. I do not think the Japanese would.

The PRESIDENT—It is difficult to get Japanese with a knowledge of English.

Dr. CLARK—Yes; that is so.

Mr. BADELEY—We would have to have Japanese interpreters.

Col. HUGHES—If you did get Japanese, would they know anything about the disease?

The PRESIDENT—They would not have the experience and knowledge of plague that the Indian assistant surgeon had.

Col. HUGHES—That is so. Have they ever seen a case of plague?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think we might trust the British Minister at Tokyo to see that we did not get incompetent men sent down.

Col. HUGHES—Have they had any plague up there to have any experience of the disease?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I thought myself they had had it pretty badly.

The PRESIDENT—There have been one or two outbreaks, but nothing compared to the outbreaks in India.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM—With plague so rampant as it is in India, it seems more than very problematical whether, assuming that we do succeed in getting men from there, they will be men of experience. They would likely be utilising all their own experienced men in coping with their own districts where plague is rampant; so that I do not know that by going to India we will secure any more than we will by going anywhere else, if we are to obtain the services of experienced men in plague work.

The PRESIDENT—If we first apply to India and find that men are not available we can then consider the question as to whether we will utilise Japanese.

Col. HUGHES—If you use Professor Simpson's name in Calcutta, where he was for many years, they would I have no doubt try to meet you.

Mr. BADELEY—Is Professor Simpson speaking from his experience some years ago when he was in Calcutta or from enquiries he made as he passed through just now as regards salaries.

Col. HUGHES—He has been years in India.

Dr. CLARK—He only left India about three years ago.

Mr. BADELEY—Did he pass through this time?

Dr. CLARK—No.

Mr. OSBORNE—We could leave the question of salary to the people engaging them. We should not fix the salaries by telegram. We would surely not haggle about a few dollars. A great difficulty with the Japanese would be how they are going to communicate with the Chinese. I do not think it is practicable to have interpreters in sufficient numbers who would interpret from Japanese to Chinese.

Mr. LAU CHUPAK—The majority of Japanese can read Chinese.

Dr. CLARK—It is impracticable to think of them writing down anything they want; they will have to make enquiries in every case and in regard to every death.

Mr. OSBORNE—I am afraid the answers they got would not help them.

The PRESIDENT—Of course, the Chinese are a most impossible race to deal with in diseases like plague.

Mr. OSBORNE—I beg to second Colonel Hughes's motion.

Dr. CLARK—Will you specify the number to be appointed?

Col. HUGHES—I move that we ask for seven in addition to the three already asked for. I move that Professor Simpson's proposition be adopted for the employment of these extra surgeons, that the question of salary be left open, and that if possible we obtain the services of Anglo-Indians or Eurasians.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I am opposed to as many as seven. As regards the two surgeons to be appointed for the inspection of ships, that question has been argued and even Professor Simpson's recommendation hardly persuades me to alter my opinion that this examination is useless. I believe experience has shown that practically it is useless, and I move that the number of assistant surgeons to be appointed be reduced by two. I should like to read out what they say in India.

Mr. Brewin proceeded to read extracts from Government papers, which bore that the number of cases of plague which developed in Bombay and Kurachi in persons from infected ports was very small; and the Commission appointed to look into the subject did not think the results compensated

for the labour and expense involved in examining passengers who arrive from infected ports. The Government of India agreed with this opinion, especially in view of the enforcement of precautions and directed that in future the examination of passengers arriving from one infected port in India at another be discontinued. Proceeding, Mr. Brewin said—I think that recommendation would apply exactly to our present circumstances, both in Canton and Hongkong.

The PRESIDENT—Personally, I do not think the medical inspection is of much use. What we really require is detention of all people coming from Canton and infected points for ten days, if we intend to stop the importation of the disease, for it is not the people who come down sick but the people who come down with the disease in the incubation stage that are a danger to us. Chinamen do not come by the river steamers if they are ill.

Mr. OSBORNE—No; Hongkong is the last place they would come to.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—If I remember aright, I think there have been only two or three cases discovered on board the Macao and Canton steamers. The Chinese are so afraid of those sanitary measures of the Colony that they will not come down. This is the last place they would come to, and the Hongkong Chinese people, the moment they feel unwell, scoot out of the Colony, so that the inspection of steamers from Canton and Macao is unnecessary and would do no good.

Mr. OSBORNE—Still I do not see that that is any reason why we should ask less men.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—We are asking for the number of men, but not for the inspection of river boats.

The PRESIDENT—There is only one additional asked for Kowloon; I think we require two.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I do not agree with that. I think we would have been asked for them if they had been wanted. I do not see why we should give two when they have not been asked for.

Mr. OSBORNE—That will have to be decided later on.

Mr. BADELEY—Professor Simpson does not mention any number at all. Do you think we should want seven if we had not any medical inspection of boats?

Dr. CLARK—We might not.

Mr. BADELEY—But if we make up our minds now that this inspection work is unnecessary, would we want seven?

Dr. CLARK—No, but it would depend upon how many cases we get and how they come.

Mr. BADELEY—But you must have some reason for fixing on a definite number?

Dr. CLARK—We fixed five for the districts and two for the boats.

Mr. BADELEY—But Mr. Brewin says: Do not have two for the boats.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Oh, we might have one for the Peak and one for Green Island. (Laughter.) This, I understand, is the Medical Officer's matured opinion. He has had the courage of his convictions and has asked for what he wanted, and I think that is quite enough.

Mr. OSBORNE—Now he says he wants seven.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM—The addition of five assistant surgeons will be a considerable reinforcement of the medical staff, and surely if it were found necessary—if there were any indication given of a serious outbreak—it would not be impossible to ask for further reinforcements. But meanwhile the thing is not going to come on instantaneously, and if we get five now we will have five to go on with, and indications would be given later on as to whether it would be advisable to ask for more.

The PRESIDENT—It is just as well to be unanimous if we can. I think we should ask for five now. We might get two later on, as Mr. Chatham says, if we find it necessary.

Dr. CLARK—I am not satisfied that the medical inspection of people is useless—not by any means. I think it has never had a fair chance. I am convinced of that.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—You had a fair chance before; when these medical officers boarded the ships.

Dr. CLARK—When was that?

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—In 1894.

Dr. CLARK—I was not here.

The PRESIDENT—But every ship was

examined, and also the junks and no case of plague was found.

Col. HUGHES—And they never got one case?

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Only two cases.

Mr. BADELEY—The people won't come.

Dr. CLARK—It is not as if they came from only Canton. They probably start away from some of the villages.

Mr. BADELEY—But you would not find out when the disease was germinating in them.

The PRESIDENT—If Dr. Clark thinks this a good thing, a better plan would be to have one of those doctors on the Canton steamers themselves, and let the people be examined on the way down from Canton.

Dr. CLARK—The only difficulty is that there are half-a-dozen Canton steamers.

Mr. BADELEY—How can you possibly examine the hordes that come down. Thousands come down every day, at least hundreds.

Dr. CLARK—No more than 2,000.

Mr. BADELEY—And how could one man examine all these?

Dr. CLARK—Two men could do it.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM—We have a very strong opinion in the extract Mr. Brewin has read.

The PRESIDENT—Was it from the Indian Commission's report that you read, Mr. Brewin.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I quoted the opinion of the Indian Commission.

Col. HUGHES—As far as I think, the examination is necessary. But to do it thoroughly on one of these boats it would take a man nearly a week. In Japan last year the Japanese doctor came round and kept you there about half an hour and walked round the ship; and that was all he did.

The PRESIDENT—Will you alter your number to five?

Col. HUGHES—Yes.

Mr. OSBORNE—On the understanding that we can get more later on, if necessity arises.

The amended motion was carried unanimously.

OFFICES FOR DOCTORS AND INSPECTORS.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—About this question of providing these men with separate offices throughout the districts, is it absolutely necessary, because the population after all is so condensed within small limits that I should scarcely think it necessary for each man to have a separate office? I think you might combine two of them in one office. The distances are very limited and it seems somewhat useless to go to the expense, because it means a clerk in each of these districts and the telephone communication to be looked after and established. I think that three offices would be sufficient.

The PRESIDENT—With reference to that I should like to state that Professor Simpson has also drawn attention to the question of offices in the case of senior inspectors obtained from England. They object to working without offices, so that we require an office for the senior inspectors. These Indian doctors could use the same offices.

Mr. BADELEY—That is putting the boot on the other leg. You suggest that the Indian officers should have offices and the senior inspector should have the use of the same offices. We have not had it before us that the senior inspectors consider that they should have offices.

Dr. CLARK—The matter has not been before us, but it has arisen since the last meeting of the Board.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—I think three offices would be sufficient.

MORE RAT-CATCHERS.

Dr. CLARK—I beg to move that the Board requests the authority of the Government to engage 20 additional rat-catchers for the City of Victoria and a European to superintend the work of the whole gang of 40, and also authority to engage 15 additional rat-catchers for Kowloon and a coloured foreman. It is Professor Simpson's recommendation that we double the present number. Of course, as you are aware, as we get near the plague season we get more rats. More rats die and the question is to find out where these rats come from.

Col. HUGHES seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Dr. CLARK—I beg to move that the Board requests the authority of the Government to erect a matched on the vacant site of Crown land to the east of the disinfecting station in Taipingshan for the accommodation of the

additional Chinese disinfecting and rat-catching staff.

The PRESIDENT seconded and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S REPORT.

The following is the text of Professor Simpson's report:—

As requested by His Excellency I have the honour to furnish him with a brief memorandum on the measures which it is advisable to take in order to combat the annual and seasonal recurrence of plague. Two deaths have been already reported from this disease within the past fortnight, and it is important from a preventive point of view that vigorous action be promptly taken.

2. No success is likely to accrue from any measures which are limited to dealing with plague in human beings and the adoption of which does not take cognisance of the fact that plague in rats and mice also disseminates the infection. It does not serve any very useful purpose to remove the sick and cleanse every thing in the infected houses and above ground if the infection is being also carried by plague-stricken rats from house to house or district to district by the subterranean movements of rats, whether this be effected by rat-burrows or by sewers and drains. Both rat and human plague possess infective powers, and each can spread the disease not only to its own species but also to the other.

3. Plague is in fact primarily a disease among rats, the infection of which can be conveyed to human beings, but once established in human beings the infection is communicable to others by means of the expectoration, by the discharges from the bowels and by the urine and by discharges from the buboes or glandular swellings which form in this disease. The clothes, the food and surroundings of a plague patient are likely to be infective and spread the disease to others, while the rats in the house which were previously healthy, by eating the food or coming in contact with the clothes or discharges, catch the infection and also spread the disease. Accordingly, no measures are complete which do not include the prevention of the disease in rats as well as man. It is because of this intimate connection between rat plague and human plague that the following measures are advised.

4. To begin with the preventive measures against rat infection, it is absolutely essential to know in what houses, areas and quarters of the town the rats are infected with plague. To obtain this intelligence, I would advise the appointment of two trained medical officers to bacteriologically examine daily the rats which are found dead by the rat-catchers and any that are alive which may appear to be ill. Large numbers of rats do not become infected all at once, but the infection as in human beings gradually spreads from one to another until plague among them becomes epidemic. Once the disease acquires a firm hold on the rats, the danger to a locality is very great. I think it might be possible to obtain the loan from the Indian Government of some assistant surgeons specially trained in plague bacteriological work. The rat-catchers also should be at least doubled in number. The disease among rats could then be localised, and the information obtained would correspond in usefulness with the notification and early discovery of plague cases among human beings. It would then be possible to concentrate with precision attention on the infected localities, and bring special measures to bear on them with the view of destroying the rats and their infection before these localities became dangerous in any high degree to man. In connection with the habits of rats, it may be mentioned here that whenever rats begin to die in numbers, whether from disease or poison, there is a disposition for the others to emigrate from that locality in a more or less distinctly defined direction. This phenomenon of migration should be borne in mind, and watched, so that on its first appearance the rats coming into a healthy locality may be destroyed.

5. These measures would not interfere with but should go on side by side with the more general destruction of rats throughout the town and district carried out by the public, the object

of which is to destroy the underground agents which are susceptible to the disease and thus prevent the infection from being disseminated further than the already infected areas. If the rats and mice are destroyed in a locality before plague is imported plague becomes comparatively a manageable disease.

6. The methods of destruction at the disposal of the public are of a limited nature, consisting mainly of the laying down of poison, such as arsenic and phosphorus, the employment of rat traps, the pouring of crude carbolic acid down the runs of rats, and the killing of them when they endeavour to escape, and in the case of large firms with godowns and warehouses the employment of rat-catchers. The methods at the disposal of the sanitary authority are also somewhat limited, but can be carried out in a more systematic manner. They consist in the pumping of carbonic acid gas or sulphureous acid gas into small sections of drains and sewers previously blocked up for that purpose, and into the holds of ships and boats infested with rats, the employment of rat-catchers on special areas, the taking up ground floors in infected houses, demolition of the rat-runs and the setting up of another slightly infectious disease among rats which is not communicable like plague to other animals or to human beings. This disease can be produced by feeding rats with cultures of a coccobacillus discovered by Danysz.

7. No single method is altogether satisfactory in getting rid of all the rats, healthy and unhealthy, but each method when employed systematically materially assists in obtaining that object, and the continuous, regular, and systematic employment of all these methods in a district ultimately produces excellent results.

8. For the preparation of Danysz virus to be employed to set up disease among rats and mice I would advise that the services of Dr. Hunter, the newly appointed bacteriologist to the Colony, be made use of and be placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board for the time being. I would further advise that thousands of doses of this virus be systematically distributed in different parts of the town not only during every day of the plague season but throughout the whole year, in order that an impression may be made on the enormous number of rats which exist in Hongkong.

9. This desirable result will not be effected in Hongkong unless special measures are at the same time taken at the wharves and landing stages to prevent healthy or sick rats from being imported. Every newly arrived ship moored at the landing stages without being subjected to precautionary measures adds its quota of fresh rats to the warehouses and godowns. This is a matter for careful consideration and precautions similar to those taken in other ports should be introduced at the landing stages and wharves of Hongkong and Kowloon.

10. Once the requisite measures are taken against rat plague which sometimes in addition to the foregoing necessitate the evacuation of a badly infected area in order to save the inhabitants from being extensively attacked with plague then the measures against human plague resolve themselves into those that are ordinarily employed against an epidemic disease such as small-pox. These consist in arrangements for an early discovery of cases, the tracing out of their connection with previous cases, removal of the sick from the healthy, cleansing and disinfection of the infected house, and inoculation if possible, of those persons who reside in localities in which the disease prevails. These measures it will be observed are distinct from the every day routine sanitary duties of an ordinary nuisance and conservancy inspectorial staff whose time in Hongkong is occupied in the morning in supervising the removal by contractors of the nightsoil and refuse, and in the afternoon in making house to house inspections with reference to house nuisances. The inspectors usefully combine with their duties in the afternoon that of ascertaining whether there is any sickness in the house but as they cannot possibly in the few hours at their disposal get over more than a few houses the number of sick persons they discover is necessarily very small. As a matter of fact a large number of the cases discovered are dead or dying. There is one trained disinfecting Inspector. For ordinary

times when the Colony is free of epidemic diseases an establishment of this kind with the Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer of Health may possibly be sufficient, but at times of emergency and particularly when an epidemic disease becomes endemic, recurring year after year, special officers and special establishments are required to contend with the special conditions that have arisen.

11. The town and district should be divided into conveniently sized districts with a medical man and sanitary inspector in each, their work to consist in the discovery of cases, house to house visitation and supervision of preventive measures. If they could be assisted, by some of the more influential Chinese residing in the district it would be a great advantage. Whenever a case of plague occurs in a house not only should the necessary measures be taken for that house but a zone of houses and buildings surrounding and adjacent to the infected house should be inspected daily by the medical man of the district to ascertain that the inhabitants are healthy and not suffering from any suspicious symptoms. The history also of every case should, as far as possible, be always traced out and recorded as it often gives the clue to the discovery of other unsuspected infected localities. Particularly the whereabouts of relations and friends who have had communication with the sick or to whom clothes or other articles have been sent from the infected houses should be ascertained. A daily inspection should also be made of the houses within the zone in order to ascertain that all rats have been destroyed and that fresh rats have not taken their places. I understand that there is great difficulty in obtaining trained medical men for this work. The same difficulty has arisen in other places and has been overcome by securing the temporary services of medical men from elsewhere.

12. Inoculation with Haffkine's prophylactic should be encouraged. If the protective effect of the prophylactic were carefully explained to the inhabitants in the immediate neighbourhood of a plague house or to those who have come in contact with a person sick of plague many probably could be persuaded to be inoculated, especially if some of the more enlightened residents in the district showed an example by being inoculated themselves. The prophylactic is very efficacious. In Poona, Bombay, and Capetown I found it gave a very great protection to those inoculated, the difference of attacks between these inoculated and not inoculated being nearly 80 per cent. The plague commission sent to India from England have reported very favourably on the protective effect of Haffkine's prophylactic, especially when two inoculations have been carried out at intervals of one week from another. The prophylactic is not an absolute protection, but it diminishes the chances of attack immensely and at the same time if an inoculated person should be attacked it reduces the chances of death. The inoculation is quickly done and less painful in its doing than that of ordinary vaccination. The inoculation causes in a few hours fever, headache, malaria, and discomfort for about thirty-six to forty-eight hours and a painful swelling at the site of the inoculation which necessitates rest for a day or two. The discomfort and pain experienced in the inoculated arm are however seldom greater than those following vaccination against small-pox, and only last a few days instead of a fortnight as in the case of vaccination. The inoculation against plague with properly prepared material is perfectly harmless. If the inhabitants residing in a zone surrounding an infected house are inoculated, they are rendered in a high degree immune to the plague, and the risk of the spread of the disease among the inhabitants in that particular area which is a dangerous area is much reduced.

13. In Hongkong with its proximity and daily intercommunications with Canton and Macao, which appear not to be free of plague, it is necessary to prevent as far as possible the importation of plague, because every such importation is likely to add to the number of infected centres. This requires arrangements and medical officers for the inspection of incoming passengers from these places. Possibly in the Port as in the districts assistant surgeons from India trained in plague work could be employed under supervision.

14. Connected with the removal of the sick from the healthy, I understand there are special difficulties owing to the Chinese having a dread of being taken to an European hospital.

It is believed, however, that the difficulties could be overcome to a large extent by allowing the large firms to establish private hospitals with Chinese doctors and nurses to attend the sick. If such hospitals are erected and suitable sites, approved by the Medical Officer of Health, are equipped with the proper sanitary appliances requisite in an infectious hospital and the necessary precautionary measures of disinfection carefully carried out in order to prevent them from becoming centres of infection for the locality in which they are situated, I see no objection. For all sanitary purposes the hospitals would require to be under the supervision of the medical staff of the Sanitary Board. It would be an immense advantage to secure in this way the assistance and co-operation of the different firms in the early discovery and isolation of the sick.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

PROPOSED ASHES MONOPOLY.

The following is the correspondence on the subject of the proposed ashes monopoly read at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the 14th inst.:-

Hongkong, 10th December, 1901.

SIR,

It was with some surprise and no little regret that the Committee of this Chamber observed, in the pages of the last issue of the *Government Gazette*, the regulations and conditions under which it is proposed to erect a new monopoly in the Colony for the collection of ashes in the Harbour, and I am instructed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber on the 19th May, 1900, to the Government on this subject. I am to add that, in view of the fact that no acknowledgement had been received of this letter, it was concluded by the Committee that the project had been abandoned.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(Enclosure.)

Hongkong, 19th May, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th instant (No. 800) informing this Chamber that a tender had been received by the Government for the sole privilege of collecting ashes from steam vessels within the harbour limits, and requesting their opinion upon the desirability or otherwise of creating such a monopoly.

2.—This question has had the prompt consideration of the Committee, who, as the result of careful enquiry and deliberation, feel bound to record an opinion adverse to the proposal.

3.—At first blush the project appears free from serious objection and calculated to obviate in some degree an admitted evil, namely, the dumping of ashes into the harbour, thereby causing the foreshore to silt up. The objections to the creation of a new monopoly to be worked by Chinese are, however, not far to seek, and greatly outweigh any benefits which might accrue therefrom. The Committee are opposed on general grounds to the principle of farms, but these are accentuated by the manner in which such privileges are worked by the Chinese. It is only necessary to refer to the working of the Conservancy contract to illustrate the evils arising from these monopolies. This contract is sublet to such a degree that complaints are constant of the abuse arising from the default of the contractors. There is no guarantee that these evils would not be repeated in the case of an ashes contract.

4. There is a danger that, either from want of visits or inability to see the signals, specially from steam launches, considerable delay in the movements of shipping might attend the establishment of an ash monopoly, or that steamers would be compelled to carry their ashes out to

sea through inability to wait for the arrival of the ash-boats.

5. While it is probable that petty theft prevails under existing conditions, it is more than doubtful whether this might not be succeeded, on the event of a monopoly being granted, by an organised system of bribery, and a great evil be thus inaugurated.

6. The present system is of course far from perfect, but it has not given rise to any very serious complaint, and if the Police desire to obtain better control over the ash-collecting boats, my Committee respectfully suggest this might be done as readily by licensing the boats as by creating a privileged monopoly.

7. The greatly enhanced value of the ashes is causing a wholesome competition for the right to collect them, which ought to serve as a guarantee both against dumping and against misconduct by petty theft if the boats are licensed.

8. Apart from other objections to the proposal, the Committee earnestly deprecate the establishment of Chinese monopolies, on the ground that they invariably lead to a serious increase in state-created crime, greatly augmenting the work of the Police, and because, though perhaps indirectly, they constitute a burden on legitimate trade.—I have, &c.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

P.S. The copy of the draft Regulations and conditions of the proposed monopoly is returned herewith, as requested.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

We observe by a notice which appears in the *Government Gazette* of 7th instant that Regulations are published whereby "all ships within the Harbour Limits shall dispose of the ashes from their boiler or other furnaces by discharging the same into the boats of the Ashes Contractor and in no other way," and a set of rules relating to these Regulations is printed, according to the last of which "the master of any ship or steam launch from which any ashes shall be discharged within the Harbour Limits otherwise than into the boats of the Ashes Contractor, and any person who shall commit any breach of these Regulations, shall be liable upon summary conviction before a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for not more than six months."

Further on in same notification are the "Conditions on which the exclusive privilege of receiving the ashes from ships within the harbour will be granted."

It does not appear clear from the wording of the above notice whether the exclusive privilege has already been granted, but, if the Regulations are now in force, it follows that this grant must also have been given, otherwise the Regulations could not be complied with.

We would now respectfully ask the assistance of your Committee to approach the Government with a view to getting the Regulations as they stand abolished or modified.

As you will recollect, this proposal was submitted on the 5th May, 1900, by the Government to your Committee for an expression of their opinion upon the desirability or otherwise of creating such a monopoly, and in your reply of 19th idem you set out in clear terms the serious objections there would be to any such proposal being carried through.

So far as we are aware these objections exist as strongly as ever, and nothing has occurred during the past 18 months to lead us to take a different view on this matter, and we cannot refrain from here stating that the sudden springing of such Regulations on the shipping interests of the port after such an expression of opinion as your Committee gave when asked to do so by the Government has caused a feeling of great surprise and regret.

We need not here refer specially to the evils of creating such Chinese monopolies, as these have already been laid stress on by your Committee, and we would now merely confirm our appreciation of the serious objections set out in your letter of 19th May, 1900, to the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary, and ask your Committee

to be good enough to once more approach the Government on the question.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents, Ocean Steamship Co.,
Ltd., China Navigation Co.,
Ltd., Nord. L. Orient Line,
Taikoo Sugar Refining Co.,
Ltd., California & Oriental S.S.
Co., Ltd.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.

Agents, Ben Line of Steamers,
Eastern & Australian S.S. Co.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.

General Managers, China &
Manila S.S. Co., Ltd., Agents,
Shire Line, Mark Wood's
Steamers, S. T. & Co.'s New
York Line.

DODWELL & CO., LD.

(Geo. H. MEDHURST,
Acting Manager).

Agents, Northern Pacific S.S.
Co., Barber Line of steamers,
China Mutual S. N. Co., Ltd.,
Mogul Line of steamers,
Warrack Line of steamers.

A. R. MARTY,

Compagnie de Navigation
Tonkinoise pp. Macgregor
Bros. & Gow.

E. H. HINDS

Agent, Glen Line steamers.

CARLOWITZ & CO.

Agents, Nav. General Italiana
U. S., China and Japan S. L.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

Agents, Shell Line.

SIEMSEN & CO.

Agents, H. A. Coast steamers
Flensburger S. T. Co.

AUSTRIAN LLOYDS S. N. C.

Sander, Wieler & Co., Agents.

P. DE CHAMPMORIN

Acting Agent M. M. Co.

MELCHERS & CO.

Agents, Norddeutscher Lloyd
S.S. Co.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY Co.

D. E. Brown, General Agent.

BRADLEY & CO.

Agents Shan Line steamers.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & CO.

General Managers Douglas
Steamship Co., Ltd.

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. Co.

OCCIDENTAL & ORIENTAL S.S. Co.

TOYO KISEN KAISHA

J. Van Buren, Agent.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA

T. S. Takayama, pro. Manager.

The HONGKONG, CANTON &
MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LD.

Thos. Arnold, Secretary

JEBSEN & CO.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General
Chamber of Commerce.

17th December, 1901.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, regarding the publication of certain Regulations concerning the collection of ashes in the harbour, and to inform you that your communication is receiving the attention of the Government.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. J. Beethom Whitehead, who has been for nearly three years Secretary of the British Legation at Tokyo, having left Yokohama on the 16th inst. with his wife and children by the German mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, the position of Secretary of the British Legation is now filled by Sir Brook Boothby, who arrived at Yokohama by the *Prinz Heinrich*. There is also a new Second Secretary at the Legation in the person of Mr Thomas Beaumont Hobler, who arrived by the *Peru*, and who has served since 1894 at Constantinople, St. Petersburg and Paris.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society was held in the City Hall on the 29th ult. There was a good attendance of the ladies connected with the Society, and Sir Thomas Jackson presided. Others present were Dr. Atkinson, Captain G. C. Anderson, and the Rev J. H. France.

In submitting the annual report, the CHAIRMAN said—The ladies of the Committee of the Hongkong Benevolent Society desire again to thank members and friends who through another year have given them the means of carrying out the objects of the Society, and have the pleasure of submitting to them their annual report of the work done, also statement of accounts. In the course of the year 27 cases came under the consideration of the Committee. Assistance was given in 16 instances and several persons had been helped previously were again aided. There were 72 applications for relief at the "Star" Coffee House, where Mr. France the Seaman's Chaplain, very kindly investigates cases on behalf of the Society and gives help to those deserving it. Employment was found in the Colony for several of the applicants and passages paid for others to various places where they had friends or promise of employment. The Society is paying for the maintenance and education of 7 orphan children, and monthly allowances have been made to poor and deserving people. A good deal of clothing has also been given away at different times to those requiring it. Should subscribers wish for more particulars the Hon. Sec. will be pleased to give further details. The thanks of the Committee are due to the various Steamship companies for the kind way in which they have responded to appeals for free or reduced passages, also to the local Press for their kindness in inserting advertisements free of charge. During the year Mrs. May, Mrs. Swan and Mrs. Thomson left the Colony. Mrs. Master, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Atkinson and Mrs. Poate joined the Committee. It is with extreme regret the Committee has to place on record the loss the Society sustained in August last by the death of Mrs. Gibbs. The following ladies retire in rotation from the Committee, but offer themselves for re-election:—Miss Anderson, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Hoare, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mrs. Poate. The statement of accounts is as follows:—

1901.

THE HON. TREAS. IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SOCIETY.

To Balance from 1900	\$1,471.07
" Subscriptions and donations 1901	1,485.62
" Interest on current. a/c	16.48
	\$2,973.17
Cr.	
By Donations and relief of cases 1901	\$1,879.82
" Printing and sundries	63.90
" Balance to 1902	1,030.45
	\$2,973.17

Before asking you to pass the accounts I will read you a memorandum I have prepared. Referring to the accounts, it will be noticed that the balance carried forward to the present year is only \$1,030.45 against \$1,471.07 in 1901 and \$2,336.95 in 1900, the fact being that the amount expended during the three years was in excess of the income. When the accounts for 1901 were made up, the Committee realised the unsatisfactory position the Society was drifting into, and they at once set themselves to devise means to increase their income. Happily they thought of giving a subscription dance, and the same came off most successfully on the 24th inst. The thanks of the Society are specially due to Mrs. Hawkins and to the other ladies who assisted her in the arrangements, and also to the public, who supported the dance so liberally. I am glad to say that the funds of the Society have benefited to the extent of \$1,800 by the entertainment. It is urgently requested that increased subscriptions be obtained, extending the sphere of usefulness of this most excellent Society. It is all very well to have a subscription dance now and again, but I really think the people of Hongkong do not thoroughly realise the immense good, and the immense possibilities

of doing good, that can be done by a society such as this. I really trust the subscription for this incoming year will be largely in excess of what they have been, for I notice that they have been decreasing, whilst there is no doubt the wealth of this place has increased very largely during recent years. I earnestly hope they will improve and that the Society will be supported in its good work.

Dr. ATKINSON—I have much pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts. Mr. Chairman, and I feel it is a privilege that I have been requested to do so, for no one knows better than myself the amount of charity, in the real meaning of the word, accomplished by this Society. Attached to an hospital as I am, I am naturally brought into contact with, amongst others, some of the saddest phases of human life, and I have been very thankful there is such a society to which I have been able to refer many cases I should not have felt justified in asking the Government to help. I have much pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Mr. G. C. ANDERSON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Miss ANDERSON—Ladies, I ask you to accord a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Thomas Jackson for having so kindly presided in the chair for us. We are all very sensible of the great services of our Chairman in every work affecting the interests of the people of this Colony, and on the eve of his departure from among us we desire to record our appreciation of his work and to wish him long life and happiness in the old country. Needless to say, his name will always remain a household word for large-hearted sympathy and benevolence. (Applause.)

Mrs. SIEBS seconded the motion, which was enthusiastically carried.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON returned thanks in a few words, and the meeting thereafter proceeded to the election of a Committee. The following ladies were appointed:—Mrs. Atkinson, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Poate, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Master, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. France, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Siebs, Mrs. Swan, and Mrs. Harling.

Miss ANDERSON—I beg to propose a vote of thank to Mrs. Robertson, our retiring Treasurer and also to the retiring members of Committee who are leaving the Colony.

Mrs. POATE seconded, and the vote of thanks was heartily accorded.

This was all the business.

TRAGEDY IN THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

F. D. Thompson, an engineer in the Royal Navy (H.M.S. *Tamar*) was found dead in a room in the Hongkong Hotel at twenty minutes past seven on the 25th ult. A short time previously Thompson had called at the clerk's counter in the hotel and asked for a room. He was assigned to No. 86, and proceeded upstairs presumably to prepare for dinner. About the time stated one of the "boys" in the corridor heard the sound of a shot, and ran for Mr. H. Haynes, the manager. On entering the room Mr. Haynes saw Thompson lying on the floor, quite dead, with a large bullet wound in his right temple. Beside the body lay a six-chambered revolver, one of the chambers of which was found on examination to be discharged. It was also discovered that the point had been cut off each cartridge, and this is supposed to have been done by Thompson in order to obviate the possibility of the bullet glancing. As it was, a great hole was made in the unhappy man's right temple, and the bullet had traversed the forehead and lodged behind the skin of the left temple. Mr. Haynes at once telephoned for the police, who on arrival had the body removed to the Government Mortuary; yesterday it was taken to the Naval Mortuary at Wanchai, whence the funeral will take place.

As to the reasons which prompted Thompson to take his own life, from enquiries we learn that he had given way to intemperance. He was court-martialled for this offence on Saturday and sentenced to be dismissed his ship and to lose three years' seniority. His position had evidently preyed upon his mind to such an extent as to lead him to commit the rash act.

MUSIC FOR THE PUBLIC.

It is notified for general information that by the kind permission of the Officers Commanding Regiments, a military band will play once a week, till further orders, on Wednesday, 29th inst., between 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. in the Military Parade Ground west of and adjoining to Murray Barracks, for the benefit of all soldiers of the Garrison, and of all Europeans and other foreigners, who will be admitted within the enclosure, passing in at the entrance opposite Murray Barracks.

The hour of playing will vary according to the season, and any changes made will be notified from time to time.

The first band performance in connection with the scheme was given on the Military Parade Ground on the 29th ult., commencing at half-past four and lasting an hour. The band in attendance was that of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Bandmaster Moir, and its excellent music was listened to by a crowd of several hundred people; H.E. Major-General and Lady Gascoigne were also present. If the attendance at yesterday's performance may be taken as a criterion of public feeling in the matter, these weekly entertainments may be looked forward to as an established and a very pleasant feature in the social life of a Colony whose main characteristic is its dulness.

THE SCOTCH CONCERT.

The concert given under the auspices of the local S. Andrew's Society on Saturday night, the 25th ult., was much looked forward to by the community, Scots and others, and it was not surprising therefore that a full house assembled to hear the music provided for them. The President of the S. Andrew's Society himself had a number of guests for the occasion, including H.E. General Sir W. J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., Acting Governor, Lady Gascoigne, the Hon. Sir John Hall, K.C.M.G., at one time Premier of New Zealand, Mrs. and Miss Hartigan, Captain Labertonche, Captain Cadogan, and Captain Hewett. Most of the leading residents were to be seen in various parts of the house when the entertainment commenced. For some reason it was ten minutes after the advertised time when the band of H.M.S. *Endymion* opened with the Overture from Hartmann's *Fair Maid of Perth*. From this point onward the programme was carried out with thoroughness and success, and vocalists and instrumentalists alike evidently delighted their hearers. Mrs. Mudie, after an unfortunately long absence from the concert platform owing to throat trouble, we believe, received a hearty welcome, and both her "Ae Fond Kiss" and "Whistle and I'll come tae ye" were encored. Mrs. Gordon also had to sing four songs, including "Lochnagar," "Waly, waly, up the Bank," and "Lizzie Lindsey," her deep contralto stirring the audience to prolonged applause. Mrs. Wood, a *debutante*, rendered "Gala Water" and an encore song very well, and her duet with Mrs. Mudie was another success. The Hon. H. W. F. Trevis, though a little rough at the start, put great pathos into the mournful "Culloden Moor" and again in "Bonnie Strathgairn" proved himself an effective singer. Mr. C. H. Dale's violin solo, Chopin's "Nocturne in E flat," was the best item on the programme. His touch is surprisingly good. Mr. Pelella showed no little mastery of his instrument. The Male Voice Choir, though obviously a Scottish accent was a difficulty for some of them, gave general satisfaction, and "Scots wha hae" was quite stirring. Mr. Worcester's two songs (for he gave "I happened to be there," in response to a prolonged call), though very different from the remainder of the programme, were really excellent; the topical verse added to "I'm the Plumber!" brought the house down—if this may be fitly said of a "plumber." Finally, we must mention the energetic accompanists, to whom, and especially to Mr. A. G. Ward, much of the success of the programme was due; and Mr. David Wood, organiser of the whole affair, whose work was unobtrusive but the most important of all. The audience showed its appreciation of the labours of all in no unstinted way.

on. But when it comes to the matter of sending visitors—by no means the least important contribution to the success of such an undertaking—Hongkong should do its share. The trip to Haiphong by the party steamers occupies about three days, and a few hours in a river steamer belonging to the same firm brings the visitor to Hanoi. Once there, during the vogue of the Exhibition, it is almost certain that he will enjoy himself thoroughly.

Intending exhibitors must send in their applications for space to M. R. Reau, Acting Consul for France, Hongkong, not later than 1st March.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 26th January.

THE "YANGTZE TRIALS" BALL.

The most enjoyable dance of the season is unanimously admitted to have been given by three very popular local residents, under the above name, on Friday last. The ball was given in Kackchih at Ewo's Piccadilly, the residence of the representative of the "Princely House," which was most sumptuously decorated and done up for the occasion. Nearly all the residents were present at the function, and dancing was carried on until the "wee" hours of the morning. Great praise is due to Mrs. Stewart-Smith for the pretty decorations at the supper tables and for the splendid arrangements throughout. Supper was served at midnight and another one was to follow at 5 a.m.

INTER-MISSIONARY CONVERTS' FIGHT.

Serious fighting is reported from Tung Poa San, in the Chaoyang district, between Baptist and Roman Catholic converts. The former had three killed and the latter two; besides this, one Baptist convert was captured by the other side. What has led to the strife is not actually known, but it is rumoured that the ownership of certain paddy fields, which belonged to both parties, is the cause of all the dissatisfaction.

The Chaoyang Magistrate asked the Rev. Dr. Ashmore, of the Baptist Mission, who is held in great respect by the Chinese, to settle amicably the existing dispute; but he declined to do so and told the Magistrate to deal with the case strictly and justly according to Chinese law.

NEW POSTAGE RATES.

Some time ago the Hongkong General Post Office issued a notification, which was circulated here by the local British post-office that the rate of postage on letters of half an ounce, to and from Treaty ports to Hongkong, will be 10 cents, instead of, as heretofore, 5 cents. In the absence of particulars, the new departure appeared to everyone enigmatical. In another notification from the Hongkong Post Office, circulated by its agency here, the public is informed that the wording of the first circular was wrong in so far that the rates of postage to and from Treaty ports to Hongkong remain unaltered, if transmitted through the British post-offices at the various Treaty ports. If, however, letters are sent through foreign, *e. g.* neither British nor Chinese, post-offices to Hongkong, the rate will be 10 cents for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., *i. e.* Union rate; if letters are sent through the Chinese Imperial post-offices to Hongkong, the rate will be 5 cts. for every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., the same rate as obtains in the British postal agencies, and thereby abolishes the former Chinese postal charge of two cents for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and 4 cents for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., &c., to Hongkong. As the Imperial Chinese post-offices still forward letters of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. weight with a 2 cents stamp to Hongkong, the addressee is charged the double deficiency by the Hongkong post-office. From information elicited at the proper quarter I learn that the Hongkong postal administration was prompted in this new step to prevent the Chinese post-office "unfairly" competing with them. This may appear right, but one doubts if it is reasonable for the Hongkong post-office to force the Chinese post-office to change certain rates, in default of which the addressee is taxed.

The London *Gazette* announces his Royal Highness George F. E. A. Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall and York, K. G., &c., Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and Royal Marines, to be Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 18th ult.:

We hear from Peking that the Yokohama Specie Bank is about to start a branch in the capital.

The number of native troops in the city on the day of the Court's return was about 9,000. All the Yamen's next day showed practically clean sheets in the way of street offences.

The "holes in the wall" of the Imperial City which did so much to facilitate communication have all been filled up, and foreign residents have now to make a twenty minutes' journey where five used to suffice to get to the Legations.

The Pekingese are truly delighted with the return of the Court, and on grounds similar to that with which the West-end tradesmen of London like to have the Courts in town. It means that a good deal of money finds its way into circulation that is missing when the Court is absent.

Princes Ching and Su have taken it upon themselves to tell the Empress that in their opinion Prince Tuan is chiefly responsible for the recent murder of the two missionaries and the native Christians in Kansu. An order has been issued for Tuan's execution, but as he is surrounded by his own devoted henchmen, beheading the cat will be no easy matter.

There is a report in foreign circles, which we quote at its face value, that the Legation ladies are henceforth to be welcome at the Palace whenever they like to call. Even if it be true, it will have little practical issue for some time to come, as there is only one foreign Minister who has his wife in Peking just now.

The contrast in the treatment of foreigners and natives during the ceremonies attendant on the return of the Court was most marked. The latter were kept back by the usual *argumentum ad baculum* so well known to Chinese soldiers and runners, while the former were allowed ready access to all sorts of unlikely places. Those foreigners on the Chien Men who were near enough to see the facial expressions of the Royalties, were under the impression that the Empress Dowager had a distinctly anxious face when she stepped from her chair to do worship at the Shrines, but that it changed to a pleased expression when she saw the hats removed. Her triple salutation in return was most marked. The Dowager showed very little if any artificial colouring matter on her face, and looked a woman of about 55 or 56. The younger Court women, including the Empress, were painted in the usual lavish way.

Viceroy Yuan, as a mark of approbation for his services in connection with the recent return of the Court, has had the Yellow Jacket conferred upon him.

The river is still unfrozen in the greater part opposite the Bund. If this continues it means that we shall again have to take our ice supply from the creek and ponds.

A most painful incident occurred at Tangku on Tuesday evening. Three of the Royal Welsh went out on a *paid'tse* which unhappily went through the ice. Our version of the affair says that two of the men scrambled out without much difficulty, but that the third, a man named Shppard, got underneath the ice and was not afterwards seen. We hear that the *paid'tse* coolie showed the greatest courage in diving for the drowning man. Under such circumstances conduct like this is the act of a hero, as it is all but certain death to go into a river-hole with a current running under the ice.

We understand that the miniature railway train that has traversed the Concessions recently on sectional lengths of rails, is part of a forthcoming scheme of the B.M.C. to cope with the sanitation question. A goodly length of old "line" has been acquired, and it is hoped by its aid and that of the two cars to transpose the solid refuse of the two British Concessions to a remote dumping ground.

Some of our gallant defenders' bodies, temporarily buried in Hai Chang Wu's graveyard, now the Municipal Market, were on Tuesday exhumed and transferred to the Cemetery. Many of our readers will remember that the brave fellows had to be buried there for the simple reason that the shell-fire was so terrible and persistent at the Cemetery that burial was

impossible. Mr W. Parker and his indefatigable Sikhs and faithful Chinese incurred many dangers, and as it was, actually lost one man by a shell while interring the dead. These fellows deserve a medal more richly than nineteen-twentieths of the men who will get it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A BUILDING CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 26th January.

SIR,—Re the case about 27A and 29A, Wing Lok Street, at the Magistracy, I note in Mr. Crisp's evidence that "the plans submitted by Messrs. Rose and Moosdeen were so incorrectly drawn that his Worship would not be able to make anything of them." Mr. Crisp would no doubt greatly improve their knowledge by pointing out to them how they should have been drawn. From what I have seen of the plans, I would not for a moment hesitate in saying that any man with a little knowledge of architecture could at a glance see what was really required to be done.

He further stated, "the walls are built of soft blue bricks, and their condition did not warrant any alterations." If the alterations had been carried out according to the plans submitted, the weight on the walls would have been made lighter by about 15 tons. As to the heavy weight on the roof, I am told they were not instructed.

Thanking you for the insertion,—Yours, etc.,
LOUIS A. ROSE.

HANDICAPPING IN HONGKONG.

THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 27th January.

SIR,—I wrote to you last October with reference to the danger, as I considered it, of being influenced by other racing club rules when fixing the scale of weight for inches to be carried by our present lot of subscription water griffins, my view being that, considering the heavy weights the Hongkong ponies have to carry, it would have been good policy to try again the experiment of attempting to bring them together by adopting a scale of 1 lb. per $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, instead of the 2 lb. decided upon. Everyone knows that weight tells in proportion to the distance it has to be carried, and that as the weight is increased the capacity for carrying more decreases, till we reach the proverbial last straw. I am emboldened by their reasoning to lay before your readers a rather interesting comparison between Hongkong and Indian racing which has just attracted my attention.

I find that it is possible to reduce 10 races on the first 3 days of the Calcutta Meeting, in December last, to about the same average distance on the first 10 Hongkong Water Subscription Races at the coming Meeting, viz., $7\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs, and I see that the average weight carried by winners in Calcutta was under 8st. 8lb. as compared with a minimum weight for inches in Hongkong of 10st. 2lb.

This letter does not claim more than an academic interest, but I hope that the local tipsters will take it into consideration, and, when they give their opinions based on sprints against the clock, that they will tell the public whether they think Mr. Mystery's 14hd. 3in. can give Mr. Whiteybrown's 14hd. 0in. 24lb. in a mile, and things of that sort.—Yours, etc.,

ONLOOKER.

POSTAGE RATES IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 29th January, 1902.

SIR,—I have read the remarks under "New Postage Rates" in your Swatow correspondent's letter published in your issue of this morning with much interest. It is strange the Hongkong P.O. should go out of its way to inform the public that the rate for letters mailed in Chinese ports for Hongkong through foreign Postal agencies is 10 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., the same as the Union rate. Constituents of such foreign P.O.'s in China get the necessary information as to postage rates from the P.O. they

patronise. The Hongkong P.O. has enough to do without increasing its burden by concerning itself about other people's affairs. In its engerness to dictate to others, as per circulars issued, mentioned by your Swatow correspondent, it has already made a misstatement. The Postal Union rate of the foreign Postal Agencies in China is not 10 cents per ½ oz., as the Hongkong P.O. would like us to believe. The German rate is 20 pfennings per 15 grams (1/14 more than ½ oz.) and by the rate of exchange fixed upon this is exactly 8 cents Mex. The French rate is 25 centimes=8½ cents exactly (i.e., 12 letters of ½ oz. per \$1), the Russian is 10 kopees=8 cents, and so on. The Shanghai French Postal Agency has a special rate for Hongkong, and some other Chinese ports having French Postal agencies by which only 15 centimes=5 cents exactly, is charged per 15 grams. It is possible to get a 7 cent. Union rate at the Russian P.O. by using 3 stamps of 3 kopees, and 1 of 1 kopee=10 kopees in all, the Union rate—as 3 kopees stamps are sold at 2 cents Mex. each and the 1 kopee at 1 cent each.

Your Swatow correspondent has not put it strong enough when writing of the "unfairness" of the Hongkong P.O. in forcing the increase on the Imperial Chinese P.O. so as to prevent their competing with the Hongkong branches established in some of the Chinese Ports. The action is an *ungrateful* one, as the vastly increased revenue of the Hongkong P.O. is greatly due, firstly, to the Hongkong P.O. accepting mail matter for all parts of China wherein are Imperial Chinese P.O.'s—which are delivered through the medium of the Chinese P.O.—and secondly, through the fact that China, not yet being a member of the "Universal Postal Union," does not forward mail abroad but accepts these at the Hongkong Union rate of 10 cents and passes same through the Hongkong P.O., hence greatly increasing the latter's revenue. It is a matter of surprise the Chinese P.O. does not retaliate by in future sending all their foreign mail through the German or French or other foreign P.O.'s; and not only would this result in a severe financial loss to the Hongkong P.O., but the Chinese P.O. would net a nice profit by the change, as then instead of paying 10 cents per ½ oz. to the Hongkong P.O. for the foreign mail, they need only pay 8 cents to the German and other foreign P.O.'s, and so make 2 per cent. profit on this department.

Your Swatow correspondent makes one mistake when he states the Hongkong P.O. rate is 5 cents per ½ oz.; as a matter of fact it is 5 cents per ½ oz.

One would have thought with the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage and its extension to Hongkong, some of the postage rates would have been altered to suit the new departure. A 1 cent stamp is badly needed, and there ought to be a 1 cent rate for newspapers. Singapore already has this. The registration rate here of 10 cents is dearer than other P.O. rates.

It is interesting to note that Tientsin has the advantages of the penny rate, by using the China Expeditionary Force Branch of the Indian P.O., which accepts mail for Britain and Colonies, including Hongkong, at 1 anna=4 cents fixed per ½ oz., although Tientsin is as much Chinese and more so than Shanghai. Why not then should Shanghai, for instance, when using the Hongkong Postal Agency, have similar facilities by being charged only 4 cents per ½ oz. to British possessions?

Thanking you in anticipation for inserting this letter, and enclosing my card.—Yours, etc.,

PHILATELIST.

MUSIC FOR THE PUBLIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"
Hongkong, 30th January, 1902.

SIR,—The treat given by the band yesterday evening was much appreciated by the public in general as a large gathering was on the Military Parade Ground to listen to the sweetest strains of music. It will be a great boon to the general public if the band were to begin to play from 5 p.m. instead of 4.30 p.m., so that many of the office assistants who leave their offices at 5 p.m. may have the pleasure of enjoying the pleasant evening. Thanking you for the insertion,—Yours, etc.,

S. D. SETNA.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY, LD.

The sixteenth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held on the 27th ult. at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son. Mr. H. Humphreys (chairman) presided, and the others present were Messrs. H. A. W. Slade, C. S. Sharp, J. S. Van Buren, Ho Tung (directors), J. A. Jupp, A. H. Mancell, Capt. Clarke, Capt. Rowin, E. H. Codling, R. A. Ferguson, A. R. Ezekiel, H. Summers, J. Minhinnett, C. Lesberil, V. P. Musso di Peralta and S. J. Michael.

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said,—Gentlemen, I will, with your permission, take the Report and Accounts as read. At our last meeting, the Chairman was able to congratulate you on the accounts then presented showing a record year. It affords your General Managers and Directors much pleasure, gentlemen, to again come before you with accounts which show better results than any we have ever yet achieved. You will probably notice that a considerable portion of the profits is made up of what I should call extraordinary profits, that is to say, profits upon which we cannot always rely, and for this reason your directors decided not to increase the dividend, but to further strengthen the Company's position by adding largely to reserve funds, and I feel sure this policy will commend itself to shareholders. It cannot, of course, be expected, nor do I hold out any hope, that profits from sales of property will continue on anything like the same scale as in the last two years, but you will be glad to hear that our ordinary income for this year will show a considerable increase over that for 1901. In December last, we completed the purchase of and let at good rentals a fine central property on this side of the Harbour, besides which several blocks of houses we have been building in different parts of Kowloon are all nearing completion and will help to swell rent account for 1902. You will notice that Dock shares no longer appear amongst our assets. It was our intention at first to retain these shares as an investment, but the appreciation was so great and so rapid that your general managers and directors did not feel justified in risking a reaction. The profits realised on your Dock holdings amount to no less a sum than \$65,957.65, which is included under the heading of "Profit on Sales of Properties and Investments" in the accounts now before you. If any shareholders have any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. Musso PERALTA—Mr. Chairman, We have listened with much satisfaction to the statement just made by you on the financial position and on the prospects of the Company. The report before us is a very good one—I think the best the Company has ever shown and the position is very sound. Comparing the Company with another Company in the same line as ours, which is generally considered in the market as a gilt-edged stock, on their very big Capital, they have earned a little over 13.5 per cent., while we have made the handsome profit of 24.25 per cent. Their reserve fund comes to one-fifth of their capital, while our reserve fund comes to over one-fourth of our capital. With these figures, they are able to declare a dividend of 12 per cent. per annum, while our Company has not been able to declare more than 10 per cent. per annum. Their shares are at nearly 100 per cent. premium, and ours are only 30 per cent. premium. When the position of the Company was not so good, and the Directors declared a small dividend, the shareholders kept quiet and did not ask for more, but now the report is a very healthy one, naturally, the Directors should have had more consideration for the shareholders and given us a better dividend. By so doing, I have no doubt the confidence of the public would be very much increased. I propose that the Directors shall reconsider their decision and grant \$125,000 as dividend, making 12½ per cent. per annum on the twelve months up to 31st December, 1901, that \$75,000 be carried to the permanent reserve fund, \$25,000 to the equalisation of dividend fund, and the balance \$18,539 to the new profit

and loss account. Unless the directors can give a very satisfactory reason for not granting this proposal, I shall ask the meeting to vote on it.

Mr. A. R. EZEKIEL—I wish to second Mr. Peralta's proposal.

The CHAIRMAN—You are out of order Mr. Peralta. The report and accounts will have to be seconded first and you can afterwards put your motion. Meantime, if any gentleman wishes to ask any questions, I shall be glad to answer them.

Mr. PERALTA—I think it would be much more right and fair if, before adopting the report and accounts, you dealt with the dividend.

The CHAIRMAN—I may say the question of the dividend received very careful consideration at the hands of your Directors. Your Directors could not see that the Company could pay more than 10 per cent. in future years, without encroaching on equalisation of dividend fund. It is impossible to expect, as I pointed out, that we can make these extraordinary profits every year, and so far as I can see this year, property is rather slack, and our profits on sales will be rather small. If you are not convinced, you can put your resolution afterwards as an amendment, but I beg now to move that the report and statement of accounts, as presented, be adopted.

Mr. MANCELL seconded.

Mr. PERALTA moved his amendment, seconded as before by Mr. EZEKIEL.

The CHAIRMAN—I have just been looking at the Articles of Association. Clause 29 of the Articles says that no larger dividend than is recommended by the Directors of the Company shall be declared, but should it be the desire of the shareholders, they can ask the Directors to declare a smaller dividend.

Mr. PERALTA—That is very strange. It makes me believe that this might be some misprint. It is very strange that, if the Directors shall declare a certain dividend the shareholders may not ask a larger sum, but may ask for a smaller one. Is this a proper copy of the original articles, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, exactly.

Mr. PERALTA—It looks a misprint.

The CHAIRMAN—You are quite wrong.

Mr. PERALTA—It is all one-sided, because I don't think there is any shareholder who would accept a smaller dividend than that recommended by the Directors. But, if the Articles say so, I will not go beyond it. I have not asked that the Directors should give more, I have asked the Directors to reconsider their decision. It might be in our favour; it might not. We are not asking for anything more than \$25,000. I think the accounts might very easily give us that.

The CHAIRMAN—As I have already informed you, the directors came to the conclusion that we could not pay a larger dividend than 10 per cent. The Directors have now confirmed this decision already given.

Mr. EZEKIEL—The Company has made more money these last two or three years, and we must have more dividend.

The CHAIRMAN—You cannot bring this forward at this meeting, because we have no power.

Mr. PERALTA—If the Directors say we cannot do any better than that, I think I shall—

Mr. HO TUNG—I think you had better put the amendment to the meeting. We are, after all, servants of the shareholders, and it is their interests we are looking after. Although I was not present at the last meeting, I believe the Board considered, in settling the dividend, whether it should be 10 per cent. in future years, and I think it is far better to declare a steady dividend than to have a fluctuating one. You see the property market is very slack.

Mr. EZEKIEL—There is no confidence this year. If we get a big dividend we can get more confidence.

Mr. HO TUNG—That will be speculating.

Mr. EZEKIEL—Never mind speculating. Every shareholder goes in for speculating.

Mr. HO TUNG—You would have a 25 cents dividend one year and a 50 or 60 cents dividend next year.

Mr. EZEKIEL again interrupted.

Mr. HO TUNG—You can kick any way you like. I think I am entitled to make my remarks. The question whether it is advisable to have a \$1.25 dividend now, and then, perhaps, get less than a dollar next year.

Mr. EZEKIEL—Never mind next year.

Mr. HO TUNG—That is your opinion. I want the body of shareholders to listen to my remarks. There are many shareholders who have the interest of the Company at heart.

Mr. FERGUSON—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I think the Chairman said in his statement that there was a fair prospect of the Company doing well in the future. I don't see why remarks should be thrown out that there is any prospect of the dividend being decreased on account of, the Chairman said, there being no prospect of the property paying well in future. I think the remarks of Mr. Peralta very reasonable. The reserve fund of the Company at \$75,000 is in proportion to the capital of the Company, and seems, in comparison with other stocks, to be a really fair reserve. I think, with Mr. Peralta, that the Directors might give the matter a little more consideration.

The CHAIRMAN—I may tell you, gentlemen, that the General Managers and Directors are very large shareholders. Possibly you did not know that, but it is so, and I think that what they have decided to do is in the best interests of the Company. If you wish me to put your amendment to the meeting, Mr. Peralta, I shall do it. You wish the Directors to meet and reconsider their decision?

Mr. MUSSO PERALTA—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—You know what that involves—delay in the payment of dividend?

Mr. MUSSO PERALTA—You can send out the dividends as they stand now, and in the case of the decision of the directors being in our favour, you could send out a supplementary dividend. You understand, of course, that I have the interests of the Company as much at heart as anyone; I don't want you to believe I am the leader of any opposition party.

The CHAIRMAN—Then I'll put your amendment to the meeting.

This was done, with the result that the voting was even—eight for, and eight against.

The CHAIRMAN—As Chairman I have the casting vote, and I give it against the amendment. As a matter of fact, although the voting has been equal, if it had come to a poll you would have been simply swamped as regards the number of shares against you.

The CHAIRMAN then put his motion, that the Report and Accounts be passed, and this was declared carried without opposition.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-election of Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, C. Ewins, C. S. Sharp, H. A. W. Slade and Ho Tung as Directors.

Mr. MICHAEL seconded.

Carried.

Mr. JUPP proposed the re-election of Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Gaskell as auditors.

Mr. SHARP seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LD.

The following is the report board of directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Tuesday, the 4th February, at 12 o'clock, noon:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$51,596.62 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$247,327.60 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent. on capital, or \$120,000, be paid to shareholders, that \$50,000 be written off the book value of steamers, and that \$50,000 be placed at credit of equalisation of dividend fund, leaving a balance of \$27,327.60 to be carried forward to new account.

It is also recommended that a further sum of \$50,000 be transferred from the investment fluctuation account to the equalisation of dividend fund, which, with the appropriation of a similar sum from profit and loss account, will

then stand at \$300,000, leaving \$178,918.18 at the credit of investment fluctuation account.

There is nothing of special interest to report in connection with the working of the steamers during the half-year. The gross earnings show an improvement as compared with those of the corresponding six months of the previous year which, however, has been nearly counter-balanced by increased running expenses. There is still no change in the unsatisfactory conditions attending the working of the West River trade.

The usual repairs have been effected during the half-year, and all the steamers are in good running order. The construction of a new steamer, somewhat similar to the *Fatshan*, but of greater speed, for the Hongkong-Canton service, on joint account with the China Navigation Company, is engaging the attention of the Board.

At the invitation of the directors, subject to confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting Mr. E. Goetz rejoined the Board upon his return to the Colony, Mr. Witkowski, who had occupied the vacant seat during the absence of Mr. Goetz, resigning.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. H. Henderson, offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. BELL-IRVING,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 21st January, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

31st Dec., 1901.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Value of steamers <i>Poisan, Honam, Heungshan, Lungshan, & the Fatshan and 3rd of Nanning and Sainam</i>	734,000.00	
Value of lighters <i>Sun Lee and Wo Lee</i> ..	11,000.00	
Value of wharves, hulks, and moorings ..	91,385.45	
Value of properties at Canton, Wuchow and Kong-tun	45,049.57	
Value of coal, stores, and spare gear ..	17,625.96	
Value of furniture	750.00	
Value of shares in public companies ..	701,730.00	
Value of Chinese bonds	1,034.48	
Loans on mortgage	842,500.00	
Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	54,492.04	
Interest accrued to date	2,141.93	
Sundry debtors	8,190.49	
	\$2,509,899.92	

31st Dec., 1901.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each fully paid up	1,200,000.00	
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund	600,000.00	
Amount at credit of equalisation of dividend fund	200,000.00	
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account	228,918.18	
Unclaimed dividends	23,841.50	
Sundry creditors	9,812.64	
Amount at credit of profit and loss account ..	247,327.60	
	\$2,509,899.92	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec., 1901.	Dr.	\$ c.
To amount paid for repairs to steamers ..	31,959.45	
To subscription to Queen Victoria memorial ..	250.00	
To directors' and auditor's fees	3,250.00	
To balance to be appropriated, viz.:—		
Dividend at 10 per cent. on \$1,200,000	120,000.00	
To be written off book value of steamers	50,000.00	
To be carried to equalisation of dividend fund	50,000.00	
To be carried to new account	27,327.60	
	\$282,787.05	

30th June, 1901.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount brought forward from last account	51,596.62	
By net earnings of steamers	172,568.60	
By amount realised by sale of steamer <i>Lungkiang</i> in excess of book value	6,940.69	
By interest on investments	51,520.14	
By transfer fees	161.00	
	\$282,787.05	

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.

31st Dec., 1901.	Dr.	\$ c.
To balance	600,000.00	
	\$600,000.00	

30th June, 1901.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount at credit	600,000.00	
	\$600,000.00	

EQUALISATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.

31st Dec., 1901.	Dr.	\$ c.
To balance	200,000.00	
	\$200,000.00	

30th June, 1901.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount at credit	150,000.00	
By amount appropriated from profit and loss account for half year ending 31st June, 1901	50,000.00	
	\$200,000.00	

HONGKONG ICE CO., LD.

The following is the twenty-first annual report of the above Company:—

The general managers have pleasure in submitting a statement of the Company's accounts for the year 1901.

Including \$4,498.45 brought forward from the previous year and after deducting \$20,000 paid as an interim dividend of \$4 per share, the balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$84,744.21, which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend of \$12 per share	\$60,000.00
To write off property account	20,589.35
To carry forward	4,145.86
	\$84,744.21

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Property account (including cold stores) ..	150,589.35
Invested in:—	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s share ..	225.00
China Fire Insurance Co.'s share	85.00
Canton Insurance Office's share	120.00
Cash on hand	975.72
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank:—	
On current account	\$ 8,323.76
On deposit	10,000.00
	18,323.76
Outstanding accounts	5,829.40
Accounts receivable	229.97
Ice in stock	180.00
Coal in stock	120.00
Mortgage on property	27,000.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	23,000.00
	\$226,678.20

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital	125,000.00
Accounts payable	7,262.33
Ammonia reserve account	9,671.66
Profit and loss account	84,744.21
	\$226,678.20

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To salaries, wages, and general trade expenses	30,276.53
To General Managers' commission	2,000.00
To auditor's fee	150.00
To interim dividend of 16 per cent. paid on 29th July, 1901	20,000.00
To balance	84,744.21
	\$137,170.74

By balance brought forward from last year ..	4,498.45
By receipts for ice and cold storage	128,826.73
By rents received (less Crown rents and taxes paid)	1,964.86
By interest	1,857.70
By transfer fees	23.00
	\$137,170.74

News has reached Tokyo from Port Arthur that the Commander of the Russian Pacific Squadron has arranged to hold manoeuvres early in the spring off the southern coast of Corea, in the vicinity of Tengdo Island, and has applied to the S. Petersburg Government for an appropriation of 1,800,000 roubles for this purpose. The vessels taking part in the manoeuvres will be fourteen, including the Vladivostock and Port Arthur squadrons, in addition to a number of the Volunteer Fleet steamers. During the manoeuvres a new method of discharging torpedoes, discovered by a Russian officer, will be tested. On the conclusion of the manoeuvres the squadron will cruise along the Korean and Chinese coast, and afterwards visit Japan.

SUPREME COURT

Monday, 27th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

WONG WO SAI v. WONG SHING NAM AND WONG KA TSUN.

The plaintiff's claim is for a declaration that the partnership previously existing between the plaintiff and the defendants was dissolved by mutual consent on 5th March, 1901, and for an injunction restraining the defendants from possessing themselves of, getting in or receiving, and from disposing of, charging or encumbering, any part of the monies, credits, property, assets, or effects of or belonging to the said partnership business and from incurring any debt or debts in respect of the said business, and from carrying on or in any way interfering in or intermeddling with the said business or in any of the monies, property, assets, or affairs thereof.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp and Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, barristers-at-law, for the defendants.

Mr. Slade submitted the pleadings in the case. Plaintiff stated that his Tong name was Wong Kip Sing Tong and that he was a dealer in cotton-yarn carrying on business at 278, Des Voeux Road Central. The defendant Wong Shing Nam was until lately a partner with the plaintiff, and the defendant, Wong Ka Tsun, was a banker residing at 83, Bonham Strand. About the beginning of the year 1900, plaintiff, being then the sole owner of the Ut Lung Ching Ki firm, admitted the defendants into partnership, each of the defendants agreeing to put into the business as his share of the capital \$1,000. The defendants did not, either of them, pay this sum into the business, but they lent to, or deposited with, the said firm at interest, Wong Shing Nam \$2,000 and Wong Ka Tsun \$1,000; and they obtained for the firm loans or deposits to the extent of \$3,500 more. At the end of last Chinese New Year disputes and differences arose, and it was agreed that the partnership should be dissolved as from the end of the Chinese year and that upon the plaintiff repaying to the defendants and to their friends the monies so lent or deposited with the firm the plaintiff should retain the business and be discharged from all claims by the defendants. The plaintiff repaid to the defendants the said monies as agreed. Nevertheless, the defendants refused to carry out their part of the agreement, and claimed, and still claim, to be interested in the business of the firm. In his reply the defendant Wong Shing Nam denied that the plaintiff carried on business at 278, Des Voeux Road, as stated, that at that date he had any connection with the Ut Lung Ching Ki business, and that Wong Kip Sing Tong was plaintiff's Tong name. Defendant alleged that this name was his own Tong name and that if the plaintiff was now carrying on business as alleged he was doing so without right and fraudulently. Defendant denied that he had been at any time in partnership with the plaintiff. Wong Ka Tsun, the other defendant, had not been a partner in the said business since this defendant became connected therewith, nor had Wong Kai Tsun ever been in partnership with him in any business. He denied the claim so far as it related to himself except the allegation that in the month of February last differences arose between him and the plaintiff, and that he claimed to be interested in the business. The facts were that on 11th February and for some time before that date, the plaintiff, in partnership with nine other persons, conveyed the said business under a written assignment to this defendant for \$1,500. Thereupon the latter advertised this fact and was registered in the Compradores' Guild and in the Registrar-General's Office. From the time of the said sale until February last the plaintiff continued to be connected with the said business as a buyer in this defendant's employ. In the month of February differences arose because of the plaintiff's misconduct, and defendant consequently determined the employment. The plaintiff then left the premises, taking with

him, as this defendant believed, sundry documents, the property of this defendant, relating to the said business, and also owing him \$151.59, monies received on his behalf and still unpaid by the plaintiff. The plaintiff thenceforward and until these proceedings had no connection with the said business and did not reside on the said premises. Plaintiff was not entitled to any interest in the business as from 11th February, 1900, since when this defendant had been, and was now, the only person interested in any way in it. The other defendant Wong Ka Tsun, denied the allegations contained in the claim except that he was a banker residing at 83, Bonham Strand. In 1863 he, in partnership with five other persons, started the business in question, which was then called the Ut Lung. From that time he continued to be a partner until 1886 when he retired therefrom. Since 1886 he had had no interest in the business and had not been in any way connected with it save that from time to time he had advanced small sums of money as banker. The said defendant had never been in partnership with the plaintiff or with the defendant, Wong Shing Nam, in this or any other business.

Evidence was afterwards adduced, and the further hearing of the case was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

LI HO TONG AND OTHERS v. LUK AK SHAN.

Plaintiffs claimed the sum of \$834.75, the amount shown to be due on account stated. Mr. J. 3. Harston, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiffs and, Mr. J. F. Reece, solicitor, for the defendant. The case had been before the Court on a previous date.

His Lordship said—This is an action in which plaintiffs claim from the defendant the sum of \$834.75, an amount due as shown by account rendered. Mr. Reece took objection on a point of law, and the question to be determined in this action is whether A, B, and C, partners with D in a firm X, Y & Co. can sue D on an account stated by him with the firm X, Y & Co. If the partnership had not been dissolved, then the firm X, Y & Co. could have sued D, as provided by Chapter XIX, Section 492, of the Code of Civil Procedure; and the Court, acting under Section 55 of the same Code, might possibly have ordered that the firm X, Y & Co. be substituted for the present plaintiffs. But, as I find that the partnership had been dissolved before the date on which an account was stated by D with X, Y & Co., and that X, Y & Co. were in consequence not carrying on business within the jurisdiction when the account was stated, the Court cannot avail itself of any powers which it may possess under Section 55 of the Code. In cases to which Chapter XIX does not apply, the writ should be issued in the name of the individual partners—i.e., in the names of A, B, C and D: but this leads to the result that D is at once both a plaintiff and a defendant, and breaks the rule that a person cannot be both plaintiff and defendant in an action. [See *Warell v. Mitchell*, (1891), W.N. 86]. The point then arises whether A, B, and C can represent the firm and sue D. It may be that if the firm had a cause of action against a person other than a partner, and such partner was either debarred from being added or unwilling to be added as a plaintiff, then in such case, the remaining partners would sue the other partners and the other person, in order that all proper parties might be before the Court. [See *Cullen v. Knowles* (1893) 2 Q. B. 381, and *Luke v. South Kensington Hotel Co.* (1879) 11 Ch. D. 121.] But I am asked to go a step farther and to make a partner to be defendant, not a co-defendant, in an action brought by all his other partners. In the absence of authority, I decline to go so far. Moreover, the objection lies that if A, B, and C could recover against D they would be recovering from D money to which D himself might be entitled. In regard to one argument adduced by Mr. Reece, I will refer to *Landley on Partnership*, 6th edition, p. 130, where it is said that the fact that partners have, for partnership purposes, taken land on lease for a term of years

is not proof of an agreement that the partnership between them shall subsist for the same period. (See *Crawsbay v. Maule & Swamb* 509). I am not at all certain that I have arrived at the right decision in this matter: if the parties like I will suspend my judgment to allow of further argument; but if no application is made before noon on Wednesday, the 29th instant, judgment of non-suit will operate from that time and defendant will have his costs. This is one of the knottiest points I have ever had before me. I have looked up most of the cases which I thought had any dealing with the question but I can find no light on the subject.

We understand that the Solicitor for the plaintiffs will apply for further argument in the case.

Wednesday, 29th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

WONG WO SAI v. WONG SHING NAM AND WONG KA TSUN.

The plaintiff's claim was for a declaration that the partnership previously existing between the plaintiff and the defendants was dissolved by mutual consent on 5th March, 1901, and for an injunction restraining the defendants from possessing themselves of, getting in or receiving, and from disposing of, charging or encumbering, any part of the monies, credits, property, assets, or effects of or belonging to the said partnership business and from incurring any debt or debts in respect of the said business, and from carrying on or in any way interfering in or intermeddling with the said business or in any of the monies, property, assets, or affairs thereof.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp and Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, barristers-at-law, for the defendants.

Evidence in this case was continued, but owing to the admissions of the plaintiff under cross-examination by Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Mr Slade interrupted the evidence and addressing his Lordship said he felt he could not proceed farther with the case.

Judgment was therefore entered for the defendants with costs, and the injunction obtained by the plaintiff on 11th May last against the defendant's was dissolved.

Mr. Sharp afterwards addressed his Lordship with respect to the perjury which, he alleged, the plaintiff had been guilty of, and asked his Lordship to commit him.

His Lordship intimated that, had the case proceeded farther, he might have taken Mr. Sharp's application into consideration, but in so much as Mr. Slade had withdrawn from the case—his Lordship considered he had acted in a very right and proper manner in so doing—he had saved the plaintiff from the possibility of being committed to prison for perjury.

Thursday, 30th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

LUK LAI CHO v. KINGHORN AND MACDONALD.

This was a notice of motion on behalf of the plaintiff that the verdict of the jury in this action given on 11th December, 1901, be set aside, and judgment entered for the plaintiff or a new trial to be between the parties on the grounds—(1) that evidence on behalf of defendants to vary the written contract in the letter from the defendants to the plaintiff dated 20th October, 1900, was improperly admitted; (2) that the evidence was against the weight of evidence and perverse.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. S. Harston), for the defendants.

The judgment appealed against was that given by a special jury upon a new trial for \$44,335 for alleged breach of warranty of authority, and the costs incurred in the original action. In that action Luk Lai Cho, 32, Bonham

Strand, sued T. H. Kingsley, who was then in Shanghai, for specific performance of an agreement, dated 18th October, 1900, for the sale by the defendant to the plaintiff of a certain piece of land situate at Kowloon and registered in the Land Office as Marine Lot No. 39. The plaintiff lost the suit, and now claimed the sum stated from Kinghorn & MacDonald, the agents in the disputed sale. Plaintiff stated that the land was actually sold to him by the defendants, and T. H. Kingsley repudiated their action. He was to pay \$325,000 for the property, upon the terms that 10 per cent. be paid cash down and the remainder within six months. T. H. Kingsley repudiated the authority of Kinghorn & MacDonald to bind him by the acceptance of the offer and maintained that he had only authorised the defendants to accept an offer of \$325,000, cash down. The damages claimed, \$44,325, represent the difference between the sum of \$325,000 for which the plaintiff had agreed to purchase the property, and the sum of \$369,325 representing 197,500 square feet of land at \$1.87 per square foot, at which rate the plaintiff by contract had agreed to re-sell the property to the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd. In addition plaintiff sought to recover the costs incurred in his previous suit. The defendants said that they were special agents of Mr. Kingsley at the time they concluded the sale of the land, and mistakenly assumed that the vendor would confirm their action in so doing. The sale took place on Saturday, 20th October. As soon as possible afterwards, namely on the following Monday, the defendants told plaintiff of the mistake and of the refusal of their principal to confirm the sale. They denied the alleged breach of warranty.

Mr. Slade, in opening the case, stated that the substantial ground upon which he proposed to argue was that the verdict was against the weight of evidence and perverse. He proceeded to quote records to show what had been laid down as the meaning of the phrase "the weight of evidence" as used in applying for a new trial, and submitted that the jury had been unreasonable in not adopting the evidence given by Mr. Kinghorn in his letter of 20th October, written at a time when he had no interest but to tell the truth and to make as good a case for himself as possible, and when he had no idea there was any personal responsibility upon himself in connection with what he had done in signing the letter, for that evidence was of an entirely different quality from the explanation he gave of the same transaction in the witness-box in the hearing of the jury. The evidence in the letter was so much more cogent on account of the circumstances under which it was written that it was unreasonable of the jury to have had this disregard of it and to have accepted the verbal explanations of the witness in giving evidence, as they did. The preponderance of the evidence, he held, was so greatly in favour of the plaintiff that the verdict was unreasonable and unjust and ought to be set aside. Mr. Slade proceeded to review the circumstances of the case, and pointed out that the whole question was whether the parties considered that the letter dated 20th October, including the postscript, was a binding contract on all parties.

Mr. Sharp said that the question was one entirely of the credibility of witnesses. If the jury believed Mr. Kinghorn, they were justified in their findings. If the jury believed—and there could be no doubt that they did substantially believe—Mr. Kinghorn and disbelieved the plaintiff, no other verdict but the one they gave was open to them. Mr. Slade went on to discuss the authorities quoted by Mr. Slade and to cite others bearing on the case and afterwards dealt with the evidence on record.

The case is proceeding.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

WING CHEUNG SHING AND OTHERS v. CHOY KANG YU AND OTHERS.

Wing Cheung Shing, 19, Bonham Strand East, and twelve other plaintiffs, local Chinese firms, sued Choy Kang Yu and two others as partners of the Tai Fung Shop of Canton in the Empire of China in thirteen actions

for various amounts for goods sold and delivered.

At the trial of the actions, Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, who appeared for the second defendant, Ho Wa Chin, applied for the writ to be set aside on the ground that the plaintiffs had not applied for the leave of the Court to issue the writs for service out of the jurisdiction as required by Section 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The matter was argued fully in Court, Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appearing for the plaintiffs, instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor.

His Lordship delivered judgment as follows:—In this action to recover the price of goods sold and delivered, the second defendant has raised the objection that the plaintiff failed to obtain the leave of the Court under Section 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure to issue the writ for service out of the jurisdiction. Out of this objection there arise two questions—first, whether Section 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure is applicable to proceedings under the Supreme Court Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance No. 14 of 1873; and, second, if the objection applies, has the defendant waived the irregularity by having taken any step in the action.

Section 34 of Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 enacted that the provision of the then Code of Civil Procedure (which was Ordinance 13 of 1873) should be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to suits instituted under Ordinance No. 14, so far as the same could be made applicable thereto. Under what I will call the Old Code, service out of the jurisdiction was regulated by Section 8, Sub-Sections 8 and 9, but the writ for service could under Section 9 be issued without the leave of the Court by merely filing a praecipe for the same. Thus both the issue and the service of the writ were regulated under the Old Code; and the practice in Summary Jurisdiction corresponded, *mutatis mutandis*, with the practice in Original Jurisdiction on these points.

Now, Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 repeals Ordinance No. 13 of 1873, the subject matter whereof is provided for by the Code of Civil Procedure, Ordinance 5 of 1901; but does it re-enact Ordinance No. 13 of 1873? One effect of Section 5 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 is that the repeal of Ordinance No. 13 of 1873 is not to affect any jurisdiction or principle or rule of law or of equity established or confirmed by Ordinance No. 13 of 1873; but the phrase "Jurisdiction or principle or rule of law or of equity" does not embrace procedure and practice. Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 therefore appears not to indirectly re-enact Ordinance No. 13 of 1873 and certainly contains no direct re-enactment thereof. Accordingly, it is not an Ordinance which repeals and re-enacts, with or without modification, any provisions of Ordinance No. 13 of 1873. But by Section 36 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1897 it is only when an Ordinance passed after the 1st January, 1898, repeals and re-enacts, with or without modification, any provisions of a former Ordinance, that references in any other Ordinance to the provisions so repealed are to be construed as references to the provisions so re-enacted. Therefore the references in Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 to the repealed Ordinance No. 13 of 1873 are to be construed as references to Ordinance No. 13 of 1873 if and as re-enacted by the same Ordinance which repealed it. As, however, it appears that Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 merely repealed without re-enacting the provisions of Ordinance No. 13 of 1873, the inference is that Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 refers to a repealed Ordinance which has not been re-enacted: from which it follows that the procedure and practice of the Supreme Court in its Summary Jurisdiction are no longer based on Ordinance No. 13 of 1873. I have not lost sight of the preamble of Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 which may be referred to for assistance in explaining the scope and object of the Ordinance, though it may not be resorted to to ascertain the intention of the Ordinance, unless there is an ambiguity in the enacting part. By Section 2 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1901, the Ordinance No. 13 of 1873 is repealed subject to the provisions of the repealing Ordinance. There is no ambiguity in this enacting part of the Ordinance, and the only necessary enquiry is as to the meaning of the expression "Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance" which occurs in the same Section 2. That expression cannot in my

opinion be construed as meaning "Subject to the preamble of this Ordinance": even if it could, the words in the preamble "Whereas it is expedient that various Statutes the subject matter whereof is provided for by the Code of Civil Procedure" do not re-enact, with or without modification, the repealed Ordinance No. 13 of 1873, because a preamble is not an enacting portion of an Ordinance. If I stopped here, the result would be that there is no Ordinance regulating the procedure and practice of the Supreme Court in its Summary Jurisdiction, other than Ordinance 14 of 1873, which, in itself and apart from the incorporation of the Old Code where applicable, is an inadequate Code of adjective law. Assuming that the Court is correct in its conclusions that the sections of Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 which refer to the Old Code are now extinct because the Old Code has been repealed without having been re-enacted, I pass to consider the effect of the language of the Code of Civil Procedure established by Ordinance No. 5 of 1901. By the interpretation clause of that Ordinance the term "the Court" means the Supreme Court and includes the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, sitting separately, in Court or in Chambers, and by Section 12 (3) of the Interpretation Ordinance No. 24 of 1897 the expression "the Supreme Court" shall mean the Supreme Court of Hongkong. It is evident from Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 that there is not now any Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and that, in lieu of the former Court of Summary Jurisdiction, there was conferred upon the Supreme Court of Hongkong a summary jurisdiction at Law and in Equity. Therefore it is the Supreme Court which exercises jurisdiction under Ordinance No. 14 of 1873. But as the term "the Court," means the Supreme Court, it is the Court which exercises that jurisdiction. There are various jurisdictions vested in the Supreme Court and the meaning of Section 13 of Ordinance No. 5 of 1901 is, in my opinion, that in no jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, which is the Court, shall a writ for service out of the jurisdiction be issued without the leave of the Court. It follows that in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court no such writ can be issued without the leave of the Court.

It seems expedient that I should express the opinion that the Code of Civil Procedure applies in its entirety to the Supreme Court in its Summary Jurisdiction except in so far as Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 conflicts with that Code. Unless therefore, this judgment is reversed, I shall act on the opinion just expressed *ut res magis valeat quam pereat*. Having held that the writ in this action was wrongly issued without the leave of the Court, there remains to be considered the further question whether the irregularity in the issue has been cured by the conduct of the defendant who has objected. In the first place I think that the plaintiff's action was not a mere irregularity: it was a step taken which was not warranted by any enactment. Next, if it amounts to a mere irregularity, I think that the application to set it aside has been made within reasonable time and that the defendant concerned has not taken any fresh step in the action. The writ was issued on 20th December, 1901, and the application was made at the hearing on 23rd January, 1902, the date of hearing of the action not having been fixed until the 17th January. Moreover, there is no such step as appearance to a writ issued in the Summary Jurisdiction side of the Court. The equivalent of appearance is the attendance in person or by representation on the day fixed for the hearing. In this instance, the defendant in question was represented by Mr. Grist, who attended on the day fixed for hearing and at once objected to the writ in the action as being invalid. The judgment of the Court is that the writ be set aside as regards all the defendants, the second defendant to have his costs.

The Court adjourned.

At the election of four members for the Municipal Council of the French Settlement at Shanghai, only four candidates were proposed, Messrs. E. T. J. Blount, P. Brunat, J. Chapsal and B. A. Clarie, and they were accordingly declared duly elected.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. NAVY.

The Club inflicted a substantial defeat on the Navy on the Cricket Ground on the 25th ult. thanks to some good batting and bowling on the part of several of the home team. Winning the toss, the Club sent in France-Hayhurst and Maitland, both of whom after a steady commencement played well, though the Fusilier gave an early chance in the slips. Maitland scored freely and had 42 to his credit out of 76 when he put up a catch at mid-on. Hayhurst took advantage of his let-off (which was a bad one) to run up 39 before he was splendidly caught and bowled by Nimmo off a hard drive. Beresford-Ash, who went in first wicket down, soon mastered the bowling and, after he had lost Moberly, well caught at wicket before he scored, and Mackenzie cheaply, found Kriekenbeck a very useful partner. The two put on 81 runs before Kriekenbeck left with 40 to his credit. Beresford-Ash followed at 233, having made an excellent 76, including 12 fours. Apart from Wynne, who made 27, no one else did anything, and the Club innings closed for 256. Of the Navy bowlers McKinley did best, with 6 wickets for 9 runs each. In his last 2 overs and 5 balls he secured 5 for 7, 3 of the victims in one over. The fielding was good and the returns were smart. The Navy went in at 3 o'clock, sending in Pringle and Gibbs. Run-getting was very slow, and Hayhurst's bowling appeared to bother the batsmen. Pringle made 42 out of the first 52 before he was caught off Mackenzie. Moore and Franklin in succession tried to force the pace, but with little effect, though Franklin put together 22. Gibbs left at 113, having made 25 by very careful cricket. The bowlers continued to have the upper hand, Dixon and Hayhurst bowling excellently, especially the former. The Navy were all out for 167, 84 behind the Club's total. Dixon took 6 wickets for 32 runs, so that he had big share in his side's victory. Scores and analysis:—

H.K.C.C.

Lt. France-Hayhurst, R.W.F., c & b Nimmo	39
F. Maitland, c Silver, b Franklin	42
Major Beresford-Ash, R.W.F., b McKinley	76
Capt. Moberly, H.K.R., c Moore, b Silver	0
A. Mackenzie, b Silver	10
Capt. Kriekenbeck, 22nd B.L., c Moore, b McKinley	40
Mjr. Wynne, R.A., c Franklin, b McKinley	28
W. Dixon, b McKinley	0
J. Hooper, b McKinley	0
J. A. Woodgates, c Moore, b McKinley	6
J. Brown, not out	1
Extras	9

Total 251

THE NAVY.

Mid. Pringle, c Dixon, b Mackenzie	42
Mid. Gibbs, st Ash, b France-Hayhurst	25
G. Moore, c France-Hayhurst, b Dixon	6
C. S. P. Franklin, c Brown, b Dixon	22
Lt. Mahon, b Dixon	9
Lt. Comdr. Oldham, b Dixon	5
Dr. Nimmo, c Dixon, b France-Hayhurst	20
C. Moore, b Dixon	13
Lt. Orton, c Moberly, b France-Hayhurst	6
Silver, b Dixon	5
McKinley, not out	0
Extras	14

Total 167

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Silver	18	2	69	2
Mahon	6	—	10	—
McKinley	21.5	5	54	6
Franklin	10	1	68	1
Nimmo	3	1	4	1
Gibb	5	—	27	—

THE NAVY.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
France-Hayhurst	17.2	2	62	3
Mackenzie	10	5	28	1
Dixon	13	4	32	6
Kriekenbeck	5	—	31	—

The poll for the election of nine members to serve on the Shanghai Municipal Council took place on the 24th and 25th ult., when the following was the result:—W. G. Bayne 259, R. Inglis 252, P. F. Lavers 248, C. O. Liddell 248, H. R. Kinnear 243, S. A. Hardoon 231, A. Quackenbush 229, A. M. Marshall 205, O. Meuser 202. E. de Bavier, with 146 votes, was unsuccessful, while the first Japanese candidate, J. Yamamoto, withdrew his candidature. Mr. W. D. Little was elected Land Commissioner.

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. "E" COMPANY R.W.F.—CHALLENGE SHIELD SECOND ROUND.

The Club and "E" Company, R. W. F., having drawn byes in the first round of the above competition, were picked to try conclusions in the second round on the 25th ult. in the Happy Valley. One of the largest crowds of the season was present to encourage the teams. The weather was rather warm, but otherwise was perfect. Owing to the want of a good shower of rain, the ground was very hard and slippery.

The teams were as follows:—

H.K.F.C.—C. T. Kew, goal; W. H. Russell, and G. B. Macdonald, R. A., backs; S. L. Jenkins, W. C. Bonner, and W. H. Howard, halves; A. R. Lowe, J. E. Lee, J. Von der Pfordten, J. D. Danby, and W. W. Clarke, forwards.

"E" Company, R.W.F.—J. Hartshore, goal, T. Jones and W. White, backs; J. Tranter, Lance-Corp. Espley, and E. David, halves; E. A. Preedy, E. Hughes, J. Smith, W. Booth, and D. Davies, forwards.

Referee—Sergt Hayward, R. A. Linesmen—J. Norton-Kryshe and J. Lawless.

Ten minutes late, the Club having lost the toss kicked off. Danby ran up the wing, but lost possession. Macdonald twice fluked his kick, but excuse could be found for him as he was facing a strong sun. Three minutes from the start Lee scored close in. Hartshore having no chance to save. The Fusiliers rushed down, and Kew had to run out to clear. Weak play by the soldiers' almost led to another goal, which came later on, however—Von der Pfordten being the scorer. Danby, lying well in the goal-mouth, nearly added a third, his shot just going a trifle wide. The Club were doing all the pressing, and the Fusiliers were seldom dangerous, their runs wanting combination. Lowe had a pass when in a good position, but he waited too long and lost possession. He made amends for this in the next minute with a really good run down the line and a shot right into goal, which Hartshore cleared. The Fusiliers pressed, but their attack lacked pith, and Kew was not called upon to exert himself. After a spell of midfield play Preedy shot weakly past. Howard was playing well to his wing, and he gave them several chances. Danby was next conspicuous with a dash down the wing and a shot into centre; this Lowe caught and, after manoeuvring for position, shot hard into goal, but the ball hit the bottom of the post and went past; it deserved a better fate. Half-time was whistled just after with the score standing at—H. K. F. C. 2 goals; "E" Co., R. W. F., nil. The Club had all the game this half, though playing with a strong sun against them.

The Fusiliers resumed, but the ball was sent into touch. Lowe gained possession, and after beating White passed into the goal. Lowe met the ball, and scored a third for the Club. Even with their comfortable lead, the Club were not sparing themselves, and were leaving nothing to chance. A pretty piece of passing by the home forwards ended in Danby shooting over the bar. Play still continued in the Fusiliers' half, and they could not make progress at all. When they managed to cross the centre line Russell did not allow them to get into a position to be dangerous. Slack play by the soldiers' defence led to Clarke scoring a fourth goal. Still the Club were not satisfied and after a nice combined run Danby dribbled through, Hartshore rushed out, but kicked the ball against Danby, who, with an empty goal, added a fifth to the Club's already ample score. Russell tried a little fancy play, but he was knocked over by force of numbers, and the Fusiliers gained a corner, which Davies sent past. Hartshore carrying the ball too far, when hard pressed by all the Club forwards, the referee whistled for a penalty. Pfordten took the kick and shot straight at Hartshore. Regaining possession, the centre had another try, but kicked over the bar. From a throw-in Von der Pfordten added the sixth. The soldiers could hardly raise a run, and the Club had splendid practice at shooting for goal. Full time arrived with the score, H.K.F.C. 6 goals; "E" Company, R.W.F., nil.

The score of 6-0 fairly represents the abilities

of the respective teams. Every goal scored by the Club was deserved. There was a lack of training and woeful weakness in front of goal evinced by the Fusiliers, whereas the Club stayed splendidly and were in such good fettle at the end of the match that their followers came away from the field on Saturday with a new sense of security in their chance at least for a place in the Final. The forward line of the home-sters played very well indeed, there being little to choose between the excellent form displayed by Von der Pfordten, Lowe, and Danby. Clarke and Lee worked hard, though the former was inclined to wild kicking at goal. Of the halves, Bonnar had most to do; that there were no points scored by the Fusiliers is perhaps the best testimony to the manner in which he held the attack in check. Jenkins as usual kicked neatly and placed well, while Howard put in some hard, bustling work on the left. Russell at right back was a veritable tower of strength to the Club defence; it is a misfortune that we are to lose the old Greenockian shortly. His partner Macdonald evinced unsteadiness in the opening passages of the game, but settled down fairly well before half-time and did good service during the remainder of the play. Kew in goal had as little to do as ever fell to the fate of any custodian; that little, it need scarcely be remarked, was done without a fault. On the R.W.F. side, there was little of outstanding merit. White at back played a good steady game, while Davies was the cleverest of the forwards and Espley of the halves.

SHIELD TIE—"A" CO., R.W.F., v. H.M.S. "ORLANDO."

This match was played on Thursday evening the 3rd ult. The *Orlandos* kicked off facing the west goal, and at once carried the attack into their opponents' territory, but a free kick against them spoilt any chances they might have had of scoring. The Fusiliers then got away, and the *Orlando* custodian had to punt out a couple of nice dropping shots in rapid succession, the accomplishment of which earned him well-merited applause. Following play in midfield, the *Orlando* got a corner on their left wing which was placed nicely, but which they were unable to convert. A few moments later the *Orlando* goal-keeper had to handle the ball to return a splendidly placed shot from near centre, and he cleared his charge just in time to evade a rush by one of the opposing forwards. Play had developed no exciting features, and the ball did a good deal of travelling in the air. The *Orlandos*, getting down the field, made a short but neither dangerous nor well-sustained attack on the soldiers' goal. This was easily negotiated, and Rodger, capturing, sprinted up the wing and passed judiciously to the centre-forward, who scored. Play still continued to be slow, but later it brightened up somewhat, with the result that the Fusiliers almost gained a second goal. Luck was decidedly with the *Orlando*, a hard shot from close quarters striking the post and just missing the net by inches. The game during the first half was almost entirely in favour of the Fusiliers, whose custodian could with safety seat himself comfortably on the ground and watch the play. That they failed to add to their score was partly due to the *Orlando*'s defences and partly to their own bad shooting. The interval came with the score still standing:—"A" Company, 1; *Orlando*, 0.

The game had been in progress only a few minutes in the second half when the *Orlando* custodian gave away a free kick by carrying the ball more than two paces, and from this the Fusiliers notched their second goal. Their defences were playing a steady game, and seldom or never allowed the naval team's weak line of forwards to make any serious incursions. The *Orlando*'s goalkeeper conceded another advantage by carrying the ball over the goal-line when hustled, but the resulting corner was not improved by the Fusiliers, whose forwards showed weakness in attacking. Just before time the Fusiliers scored a third goal, and an uninteresting game ended:—"A" Company, 3; *Orlando*, 0.

An interport Association football match. Kobe v. Yokohama, is to be played in the former town about the middle of February.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB

COMMODORE'S CUPS.

On Saturday, the 18th inst., the second race for the Commodore's Cups was sailed in a steady easterly breeze of almost wholsail strength, the course being round a mark boat in Quarry Bay, Kowloon Rock, and the south buoy on the Cust Rocks.

Alannah got away with a splendid start, *Iris* being next on the weather of *Bonito*. *Alannah* went marvellously, beating out to the first mark, which she rounded 3 mins. ahead of *Bonito*, the latter beating the new boats, which were all in a bunch, by about half-a-minute. *Iris* was last. There was little material change in the relative positions of the boats for the rest of the first round. On the beat up the second time, *Alannah* increased her lead, and *Erica*, who held on well into Kowloon Bay before crossing, worked into third place. Under the weather conditions prevailing both *Erica* and *Kathleen* appeared to travel slightly faster than *Colleen* on all points of sailing, while *Bonito* showed that age had in no way diminished her speed, for on the wind she kept creeping away from the new copies of herself, although she was slightly slower off the wind.

The official timing at the finish was:—

	H.	M.	S.	Marks.
<i>Alannah</i>	4	7	0	10
<i>Bonito</i>	4	31	07	4
<i>Erica</i>	4	31	35	1
<i>Kathleen</i>	4	32	45	—
<i>Colleen</i>	4	33	45	—

Iris did not finish.

The *Alannah* would have been further ahead only she left out the buoy in Hunghom Bay on the second round and had to go back. *Iris* had to give up, as a junk got foul of her and broke her forestay.

SECOND CLASS.

Only *Maid Marian*, *Doreen*, and *Payne* turned out in this class. *Maid Marian* was first over the line, with *Doreen* close under her lee, but on the beat out to the Dock point *Doreen* opened out a good lead; however, she made the mistake of carrying on far too long towards Channel Rocks before standing over to the Island shore, and lost her lead, *Maid Marian* rounding the first mark a minute ahead of *Doreen*, and 2 mins. ahead of *Payne*. On the broad reach to Kowloon Rock, *Maid Marian* increased her lead, and continuing to gain on the reach to Dock Point she rounded the buoy in Hunghom Bay with a lead of 4 mins. from *Doreen* and 7 mins. from *Payne*. This time round, all three boats stood over to the island shore, *Maid Marian* holding her lead from *Doreen*, whilst *Payne* dropped another minute astern before rounding the mark boat in Quarry Bay. From this point, *Maid Marian* gained steadily, eventually finishing 10 mins. 37 secs. ahead of *Payne*, thus saving her time with 37 secs. in hand—a most satisfactory tribute to the ability of the handicapping committee.

The official times at the finish were:—

	Net time	Marks.
<i>Maid Marian</i>	4.49.50	10
<i>Doreen</i>	4.58.30	1
<i>Payne</i>	5.02.27	4

The first race for the Commodore's Cup was sailed on Saturday, January 4, but was not finished within the time limit, and will be resailed on Sunday next, the First-Class and One-Design Class boats starting at noon and the Second-Class at 12.10 p.m.—time limit as before, 6 p.m.

SEVENTH CLUB RACE.

On Sunday, the 19th inst., *Alannah* and *Bonito* did battle for the Seventh Club Race. *Gloria* also started, but was completely outpaced. There was a fresh breeze from the East at the start, and the two cracks got away on very even terms, *Bonito* to leeward but slightly ahead. For a time it seemed that the old boat would hold her rival, but opposite the Docks *Alannah* took the lead, reaching Kowloon Rock about a minute ahead, but burst her mainsheet when round, letting *Bonito* up again. *Bonito* worked inshore out of the tide up to Lyemun, and halfway between Channel Rocks and the Beacon appeared to have a long lead, the wind being very light, but *Alannah*, in her turn, got a lift, and closed up round the mark, passed her on the run down to Kowloon Rock, and the two started for the

boat with *Alannah* about one length ahead. *Bonito* unfortunately, through a stupid mistake of her skipper, who thought he was going back to Lyemun again, overshot her mark by about a quarter of a mile, thus letting *Alannah* away and spoiling a most exciting race.

Official timing at the finish was:—

	H.	M.	S.	Marks.	Total
<i>Alannah</i>	3	27	45	10	52
<i>Bonito</i>	3	40	35	4	42
<i>Gloria</i>	3	47	55	1	3

The One-Design class started at 1.10, *Kathleen* getting away with the best start from the south end of the line, with *Min* and *Colleen* about two lengths behind her. *Erica* started from the north end, but being on the port tack had to give way to *Kathleen*, but weathered the other two. Near Blackhead's Point, *Min* had the misfortune to carry away her main halyards, and lay to to reef. Shortly after clearing Blackhead's, *Erica* passed through *Kathleen*'s lee, and got into first place, and rounded Kowloon Rock a few lengths ahead of *Kathleen*, *Colleen* being about a minute or so astern. In the beat up to the Lyemun Beacon, numerous calm patches having to be negotiated, *Colleen*'s light-weather qualities brought her to the front, and she rounded the tower with about 5 minutes to the good, *Erica* being about two lengths ahead of *Kathleen* and *Min* not far behind. In the run to Kowloon Rock, *Kathleen* went into second place. No further changes took place, but the boats closed up a little, and the line was crossed as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.	Marks.
<i>Colleen</i>	3	42	17	30
<i>Kathleen</i>	3	43	40	9
<i>Erica</i>	3	44	4	19
<i>Min</i>	2

There were 5 starters in the Second-Class, *Maid Marian* being first over the line with *Chanticleer*, *Gazelle*, *Payne*, and *Meteor* close astern. Beating to the Dock Point, *Chanticleer* and *Payne* stood well into Hunghom Bay and over the shoal, which just enabled *Chanticleer* to cross *Maid Marian*'s bow as they came abreast of the point. At the first mark, however, *Maid Marian* was leading by a minute with *Payne* 2nd and *Chanticleer* 3rd. In beating to Lyemun, the 2nd class boats were able to profit by seeing that the One-Design boats had the wind dead ahead when close under the shore, whereas it was freer when further out in the tideway, and this enabled them to draw up. *Maid Marian* was first round the beacon, *Payne* not rounding until 9 mins. later, partly owing to her having to make a short tack, to weather the mark, in a strong tide and practically a flat calm. Running to Kowloon Rock, *Maid Marian* further increased her lead, and came right up to some of the One-Design class. It was now merely a question if *Maid Marian* could gain sufficiently to save her time from *Gazelle*, and this she was just able to do with the narrow margin of 31 secs., which might have been less had not a junk put *Gazelle* out of her course just before reaching the line.

Finishing times were:—

	H.	M.	S.	net times.
<i>Maid Marian</i> (1)	3	44	41	3.44.41
<i>Payne</i> (3)	3	57	52	3.47.52
<i>Chanticleer</i>	3	58	45	3.57.45
<i>Meteor</i>	3	59	47	3.57.47
<i>Gazelle</i> (2)	4	5	12	3.45.12

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The Volunteer Corps had another outing on Saturday, the 25th inst., this time carrying blank ammunition and having some attack-and-defence work on the hills at the Tai Sang rifle range, where two of the Field Battery's guns were mounted. The manoeuvres were of a very serviceable nature, and ended in favour of the defenders, who had previously been posted and commanded the approaches to the position to be attacked.

The parade, considering the counter-attraction provided by the football match, was a strong one. General disappointment, however, was felt at the non-attendance of the band, for, as one member put it, "there is no fun without the band." On the way home the musical ones in the Corps did their best to atone for this deficiency, although the effect was somewhat marred by the singing and whistling of different songs and tunes at the same time.

FROM A COTTAGE IN KOWLOON.

The Paris paper *L'Echo de l'Armée*, on the 8th December, published from its "Hongkong correspondent" an interview of such exquisite humour that we cannot refrain from reproducing it in translation in full. The article is dated Hongkong, 25th October, and runs thus:—

Learning that the Richet mission had arrived at Hongkong by a Messageries boat from Tonkin, I called on M. Etienne Richet to ask him to confirm the news already published about affairs in Laos. I found the traveller in a cottage in Kowloon, a suburb of Hongkong, very early in the morning, before his work table.

"The Far Eastern papers," I said, "have commented on the various incidents of your journey in the Laos country. No one knows as well as you the course of events there."

"Yes, last month I crossed the neutral zone separating us from Siam, the Bolovan plateau and re-ascended the Mekong by the Kammaret rapids."

"What are the facts of the case as at present known?"

"Few. Owing to the misdeeds of a body of men (who paid for them with their lives) some of the Bolovan villagers revolted—or rather it was hardly a revolt. The Khas never submitted to French rule any more than the Sedangs. They are savage tribes which have taken refuge in the hills and resist all civilising influences. A dangerous criminal, wanted by the French authorities, took advantage of the murder of Ménard to stir them up. When we get possession of Pho-mi-boun Bac-My, all trouble will be at an end."

"But the English papers, the *Hongkong Daily Press*, for instance, claim that the affair might have very serious consequences."

"Eh! laissez moi rire. That's just like the English, that nation of exquisite bluffers. Their principle is to exalt their own work and destroy (verbally, at least) that of their neighbours. It is thanks to this that we have so long believed in a power which is wholly imaginary. For example,—in event of war we could take Hongkong with a few Tonkinese battalions. On the other hand, could the English set foot in Tonkin so easily? Never! Thanks to M. Doumer's defence works, organised with the assistance of Generals Borgnis-Desbordes and Dodds, it is too late to dislodge us from Tonkin now."

At this moment, M. André Fournier, second in command of the mission, and M. Miller, the secretary, entered the room. The latter laid on the table a voluminous portfolio labelled in large letters "Siam." At once I said to M. Richet:

"And what about the Siamese question? How do we stand there?"

"There isn't really any longer a Siamese question, and we're not doing anything there. But it is certain that before long some 'big' incident will occur to stir the Government, I imagine, to vigorous action."

M. Richet is a man of knowledge. Various circumstances have given him the opportunity of collecting on the spot very valuable documentary evidence. But he keeps it to himself and will not speak about it. I did not insist and left M. Richet, thanking him for the information which he was good enough to furnish. The hour of the "boat" had come. I shook the hand of the master of Kowloon-house [sic], wishing him a pleasant voyage home. M. Richet will visit Ceylon, Bombay, Cairo, and Alexandria.

The H.K.V.C. will appreciate the threatened capture of this island by a few Tonkinese battalions.

An Osaka Mainichi telegram, dated London, the 16th ult., says:—A Russo-Chinese company has been ordered to undertake the construction of the Kiakhta-Peking railway, and a surveying staff have left St. Petersburg.

The General Election which will take place in Japan in August next will be the first held under the new Election Law. The electoral districts have been largely extended under the new law and now coincide with the prefectures.

BRITISH AND JAPANESE PRESTIGE ON THE YANGTSE.

The *N.-C. Daily News* in its "Notes on Native Affairs" says:—

In this country it is quite simple to find out what country's prestige is ahead in the estimation of Chinese officials by the amount of attention given to the study of that country's language over those of other nations. This estimate in regard to prestige is not usually general, but more according to local conditions. For instance, in the North the Russians are apparently in the ascendant in the estimation of the Chinese officials in Peking, hence more particular attention is devoted to the Russian language than to others, and as many scholars as possible are obtained to take up the literature of the Muscovite. In the South as in Kwangsi and Yunnan owing to the contiguity of the French territories, great attention is being given to the study of that country's language in preference to English, which at one time was the only language taught, and students, at Canton even, are being especially encouraged to take up France studies. In the Yangtze provinces, however, neither France nor Russia is considered of much importance to the political conditions of that region, but Great Britain and Japan are, and not only is their prestige considerably above the other Powers, but what is more, these two countries are looked upon with really friendly eyes not only by the officials but also by the merchants, gentry, and literati. The English and Japanese languages are therefore to be the principal studies in the various new schools of Western learning in the Liangkiang and Hu-luang provinces, beginning with the commencement of the next Chinese year, that is, after the 8th of February next. In the Government schools also, such as the Tzechiang College at Wuchang and the principal Government schools in Nanking where hitherto German, French, Russian, English, and Japanese have been taught, the first three are to be abolished and only the instructors of the latter two—English and Japanese—will be retained from the middle of February next. As the language of America is the same as English what has been said of the latter also refers to the former. Indeed friendship towards the U.S. would have been greater than towards Great Britain, were it not for the ill-feeling entertained by the officials in regard to the Exclusion Act passed by the former country.

HONGKONG.

The only case of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week was one of diphtheria. The Supreme Court will go into vacation from the 8th to the 14th inst. inclusive, owing to the Chinese New Year holidays.

The local A. D. C. finds itself unable, after all, to stage *His Excellency* during the Race Week. The Colony seems to suffer at the present moment from a great dearth of available amateur actresses.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 219 non-Chinese and 116 Chinese visited the former, and 56 non-Chinese and 1,778 Chinese the latter institution.

In the annual musketry course of the Police Force some very good shooting has been shown. Inspector McLennan, a well-known shot in the Colony, is first with 148 out of a possible 168. Sergeant Cameron, with 16 to his credit, is likely to win the silver cup presented by Inspector McLennan for the best shot amongst those members of the Force below the rank of inspector.

There sailed by the s.s. *Malacca* on the 25th ult. for Singapore, Major Dorehill, Lieuts. Ensor, Argus, Thomson, Nanson, and Watson, non-commissioned officers and men of the 50th Co., Royal Garrison Artillery; for Bombay, Captain Cruikshank, Lieuts. Macdonald, Bosanquet, Sheppard, non-commissioned officers and men of the 82nd Co., Royal Garrison Artillery; and for London, Major Connolly, R.A.M.C., Lieut. Blake, East Yorkshire Regiment, son of H.E. the Governor, and military details from R.G.A., R.W.F., A.O.G., R.A.M.C., etc.

P.-S. Walter Kent has been appointed Inspector of Nuisances in the Kowloon City district.

The return of deaths in the Colony in December shows a total of 573, 30 in the European and foreign community (18 civilians, 10 Army, 2 Navy) and 543 in the Chinese community. 160 deaths were due to chest affections (including 6 non-Chinese), and 59 to malaria. The death-rates in the principal registration districts were:—British and foreign community (civil) 22.5 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese, Victoria, land 25.5, boat 24.3; Chinese, whole Colony, land 23.4, boat 22.0, land and boat 23.2; whole civil community 23.2.

The return of the stamp revenue for the two years 1900 and 1901 shows a total decrease during the latter period of \$28,867.31. This is principally accounted for by a drop in Probate or Letters of Administration of \$33,910.20 and in Conveyance or Assignment of \$20,206.65, no other item showing a loss of \$1,000. The principal increases were in Transfer of shares, \$5,517.10; Bill of lading, \$5,137.70; Bank note duty, \$3,836.31; Bill of exchange and promissory note, \$3,806.98; Policy of Insurance, \$2,886.61; adhesive stamps, \$2,773.54; Broker's note, \$1,855.50.

A special meeting of the members of St. John's Cathedral choir was held on Thursday evening to consider letters from the Bishop of Victoria relating to an insinuation published in the *China Mail* against the choir and reported to have been made by the Bishop at the recent meeting of Shareholders and Subscribers. The Bishop having pointed out that he was confident he did not make the statement in question (though he said in the confusion of the breaking up of the meeting he might have done so) and having at the suggestion of several members publicly withdrawn the statement published, the choir considered the matter ended.

M. Droeze, Consul-General for the Netherlands in South China, informs us that the Governor-General of Netherlands-India has decreed that all ships or vessels arriving from Hongkong or having called at this port are subject in Netherlands-India to a quarantine of ten days from the date of departure from this port or since the last case of plague on board. Importation is temporarily prohibited of animal refuse, claws and hoofs, animal or human hair and bristles, hides which are untanned and which are salted or cured with arsenic, raw wool and rags, bags or sacks which have already been used, coming from Hongkong or transhipped at this port, and tapestry and embroideries, unless transhipped as personal baggage.

In a letter which is too long for publication a correspondent again draws attention to the smoke nuisance caused by what he describes as "several ill-constructed funnels erected by two firms carrying on business in Queen's Road East, near the foot of St. Francis Street." The two firms complained of are the Tin Hing Company, engineers and shipbuilders, and the Kee Heong Chan, sweetmeat manufacturers and importers, whose businesses, our correspondent says, are carried on in the heart of a dense population, and surrounded by six rows of houses. Some five months ago, the letter points out, Messrs. George Fenwick and Company, Ltd., had to make extensive alterations to abate such a nuisance, owing to the complaints of people residing about three hundred yards away, but the St. Francis community, living within fifty yards of the ill-constructed smoke-stacks of the two Chinese firms in question, have had on heed paid to their repeated representations to the sanitary authorities on the subject.

H.M.S. *Blenheim* left on the 27th ult. for Amoy, while H.M.S.S. *Terrible* and *Cressy* went out on a cruise.

H.M.S. *Eclipse* returned from a cruise and H.M.S. *Endymion* went out on a cruise on the 28th ult.

H.M.S. *Ocean* arrived from Amoy on the 30th ult.

The German flagship *Fürst Bismarck* arrived on the 31st ult. from Tsingtau.

According to a Foochow despatch, the French are negotiating with H. E. Viceroy Hsu Yingkuei with a view to getting mining concessions in the Chienning and Shawon Prefectures, Fohkien.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Italian Consul at Seoul has forwarded an official note to the Korean Government covering an application for a mine, the Italian Government being desirous of obtaining equal privileges with other powers.

Of 56 American vessels entering the Philippines during the year ended 30th June, 1901, 12 were from Hongkong. Of 47 American vessels clearing from the Islands 14 were for Hongkong. The number of vessels of all flags that entered the Philippines from Hongkong during the same period was 254 out of a total of 719, while the number cleared for Hongkong was 287 out of a total of 664.

The Russian authorities have under contemplation, according to a Japanese vernacular paper, a scheme to run Russian steamers to Japanese ports, making Vladivostok the headquarters. Up to now attention has been chiefly directed to the services between Vladivostok and Nagasaki. In 1901 the arrivals and departures of Russian steamers between these two ports were only 95, but last year they totalled 225. The service of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha between the two ports has been seriously affected by the growth of the Russian competition, as passengers naturally prefer the Russian steamers, which run direct between the two ports, while the N. Y. K. boats call at Fusan and Gensan.

As the Siamese Press is so fond of retiring Admiral de Richelieu and then contradicting the report, we take the following from the *Bangkok Times* without guaranteeing its authenticity in any way:—Admiral de Richelieu's retirement from His Majesty's service, which has been impending for some time, will take effect from next month. All arrangements have been made, and the Admiral will leave Singapore for Europe by the German mail steamer *Hamburg* on the 24th of February. He will go on with his work as usual to the last, but when he does go down the river Admiral de Richelieu will no longer be the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Navy. Failing health has compelled his retirement, and it is doubtful if, when it came to the push, any other consideration would have induced him to leave his work.

M. Doumer's Yunnan railway scheme has brought a party of fifteen Italians to Tonkin to work on the line, as diggers, cutters, masons, bricklayers, &c. Two other Italians have joined them there in other lines of business. Their success will mean the arrival of fresh batches of Italians to seek fortune on the railway. Bitter complaint arises that these foreigners readily find employment, while Frenchmen are too often allowed to roam about the country vainly seeking work, or only getting it on wretched pittance. M. Doumer is now in Tonkin. He is not expected back at Saigon until the 3rd March next. After putting the finishing touches to his handiwork in Indo-China, he will return to France in the M.M. boat leaving that port in the middle of that month. He is expected to start again on a political career in France. The anti-official Press hails with joy the departure of M. Doumer.

A Shanghai native paper publishes the following from a correspondent in Peking:—The reason why the Chinese Government has refused to hand over the native customs establishments at Canton to the control of the Maritime Customs until now is because the continuance of the management of these establishments in the hands of the native authorities is to the personal advantage of the Empress-Dowager. Hitherto the Empress-Dowager has bought many things annually from Canton through the Head of these establishments, the Hoppo, who is always a Manchu and always owes his lucrative appointment to her Majesty. Therefore he never charges his patroness for whatever articles he purchases for her and he is, in a certain sense, her private accountant. If these customs be transferred to foreign control, the Empress-Dowager will not be able to use their revenue so freely as before. Hence she stood obstinately in the way of their transference, until Prince Ching intervened and persuaded her Majesty to give way. The Prince told her Majesty that, after the transfer of these customs establishments, she can draw public money to buy things from Canton if she should so desire.

The staff of the chief of the German Expeditionary Corps to China is now dissolved.

Marquis Ito has embarked on board the N. D. L. steamer *Kiautschou* at Naples for Japan.

Lieutenant Mudus, attached to the Tientsin Provisional Government, was shot by brigands at Chunliangcheng on the 22nd ult. His condition is serious.

The action of the Russian authorities in laying a telegraph line across the Korean frontier is being commented upon by some papers, says the *Nagasaki Press*. The report is, however, unconfirmed by the official sources. Japan and Russia have a convention between them, binding each other not to erect telegraph lines in Korea without informing each other of the act and getting consent thereto. On the other hand, the Korean authorities are at perfect liberty to deal independently of either party, whether or not to grant the necessary concession for erecting telegraphs since she is not trammelled by the compact. At the same time, it is stipulated between Japan and Korea that, in case the latter allows any foreign Power to erect telegraphs in Korea, the former shall have first consideration. Thus Japan is understood to have the right of priority in this matter.

The *Selangor Government Gazette* contains extracts from the 1902 Budget. It is estimated that the revenue, estimated at \$6,476,495 last year, will increase by about half a million dollars during the current year. The outlay is set at \$6,595,591, against \$6,235,894, the estimate for 1901. For the electric lighting of Kuala Lumpur \$250,000 are put down, the total cost being set at nearly \$587,000. The P.W.D. is down to spend something like a million and a half dollars, but, according to the *Malay Mail*, it simply cannot do it; it has neither the staff nor the labour. Railway construction calls for \$713,366. In Kuala Lumpur, apart from the electric light scheme, the two largest votes are (a) extension of water supply \$80,000, and (b) new museum \$60,000. A quarantine station for passengers at Port Swettenham is to cost \$10,800, and filling in swamps at this port is to take another \$10,000.

At St. Michael's Church, Chester Square, London, on the 21st December, the marriage took place of the Earl of Donoughmore, of Knocklofty, and Kilmainham Castle, Clonmel, Ireland, and Miss Elena M. Grace, daughter of Mr. M. P. Grace, one time Mayor of New York, and Mrs. Grace, of 40, Belgrave-square, S.W., and Porters, Shenley, Herts. Mr. Grace gave his daughter away. The Ladies Evelyn and Norah Hely-Hutchinson (sisters of the bridegroom), the Misses Margarita and Gladys Grace (sisters of the bride), and Miss Juanita Eyre (cousin of the bride), were bridesmaids, and the Earl of Malmesbury acted as best man. The wedding was kept as quiet as possible owing to mourning, and after the ceremony Mrs. Grace held a reception at 40, Belgrave-square, S.W., among the guests invited being Ella Countess of Donoughmore, Lady Blake, Sir Charles and Lady Jessel, Sir Alfred and Lady Dent, and Lord Aldenham. Early in the afternoon the Earl and Countess of Donoughmore departed for their honeymoon, which will be spent abroad. In the Earl of Donoughmore will be recognised the former Lord Suidale, the popular A.D.C. of H. E. the Governor here.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 18th January.—Re-reels.—No transactions are reported. Filatures.—Notwithstanding the absence of encouragement from European markets, a fair business has been done during the fortnight under review, the total settlements amounting to 700,800 bales. Prices have advanced further and are held very firm by the few willing sellers of 5th and 6th crop Silk. Short-reels.—Are very quiet, only about 100 bales having changed hands during the fortnight. Waste.—There has been a little more demand from European buyers during the last few days, leading to some transactions in unopened Steam Waste. As the visible stocks are small and well held, prices are very firm and likely to remain so for some time to come.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—The holders are to clear all their stores before the arrival of China New Year and the prices are consequently declining. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.48 to \$8.52	pel.
do. " 2, White.....	7.50 to 7.55	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.95 to 6.00	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.35 to 8.40	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.35 to 7.40	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.90 to 5.95	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.50 to 12.55	"
Shekloong "	10.20 to 10.25	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—Large demands having come forward, the prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.70 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality	3.85 to 3.90
" Long	4.05 to 4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
" White.....	3.85 to 3.90
" Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—Malwa.—A few chests have been placed during the interval—New at \$900/910, Old at \$920/940.

Bengal.—Our market remained in a very slack state and prices have further receded. We close New Patna at \$902½, New Benares at \$900.

Persian.—Some business was done in best drug at \$6 0 per picul.

Stock.

Patna	3,250½
Benares	545
Malwa	335½
Persian	3,324½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—Only best parcels were taken up at a reduction of \$½ Stock, about 4,000 bales.

Bombay,	21.00 to 21.50	piculs
Bengal (New), Rangoon, }	21.50 to 22.50	"
and Dacca,	"	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	29.00 to 29.50	"
Tungchow and Ningpo,	29.00 to 29.50	"
Sale: 700 bales.		

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 31st January:—The steady buying during the interval includes a fair proportion of the higher counts for Shanghai and Tonquin, but the bulk of operations have been effected for the local and neighbouring markets. Settlements aggregate nearly 8,000 bales, prices showing a further appreciation of half to one dollar per bale, and the aspect of the market at the close points to a maintenance of the advance. The enquiry is purely speculative, as at the moment there is nothing doing in the country, but dealers anticipate a brisk winter trade on resumption of business after the yearly settlements of accounts, and are laying in stock to meet the expected demand. The last few days, buying has ceased owing to the near approach of China New Year (8th February) and the business of this native year may be considered to have almost come to an end pending the revival for clearance after the holidays.

Local Manufacture:—Sales of about 500 bales No. 10s. and 12s. of the Hongkong S. W. & Dyeing Mill are reported at \$92 and \$95 respectively, prices showing an advance of half dollar per bale. Japanese yarn:—Business continues impracticable at the current unfavourable exchange, thus giving greater impetus to Bombay No. 16s. and 20s.

Raw Cotton:—The market has been somewhat featureless, but considering the season a fair business has been put through. Exporters are somewhat in evidence, having shipped off about 2,000 bales to Japan, but no rates would appear to induce Japan spinners or the local Mill in the meantime. As usual the demand has run upon good to superfine machine ginned Bengals, the common run of stuff being totally neglected. Sales reported are some 81½ bales at from \$21 to \$23½, leaving a heavy stock of over 5,500 bales on the market. There has been nothing done in China Cotton. Quotations are \$18 to \$23 Indian and \$28 to \$30 Chinese.

Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Rs. 136½ for T/T and Rs. 137 for Post. On Shanghai 72½ and on Yokohama 104 per cent. premium.

Advices from Shanghai to the 27th instant report the undernoted business in imported and local spinning during the three weeks ended the 5th idem, viz.:—

Indian:—Total sales 6,060 bales, comprising 10 bales No. 6s., 1,870 bales No. 10s., 736 bales No. 12s., 912 bales No. 16s., and 2,532 bales No. 20s., prices remaining with little alterations as those last given and market closing quiet but steady. The unsold stock in first hands was estimated at 32,000 bales, whilst the Chinese dealers held 25,000 bales uncleared.

Japanese:—Total sales about 3,000 bales at a slight concession of half a Tael on previous quotations, say 11s. 8d to 88 for No. 16s., and 11s. 8d to 89 for No. 16s., market closing weak for spot cargo but steady for forward delivery.

Local:—Market firm, spinners unwilling to sell at ruling quotations, though resales at easier rates amongst natives are reported. Total sales about 2,100 bales at 11s. 7d to 78 for No. 10s. 11s. 7d to 80 for No. 12s., 11s. 8½ to 83 for No. 14s. and 11s. 8½ to 85 for No. 16s.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 200 bales No. 6 at \$79 to \$80, 50 bales No. 8 at \$84, 1,500 bales No. 10 at \$85 to \$95, 850 bales No. 12 at \$91.50 to \$95.50, 200 bales No. 16 at \$101.50 to \$107.50, 1,300 bales No. 20 at \$105.50 to \$114. *White Shirtings*: 250 pieces X 6 at \$4.65, 250 pieces Fox and Goat at \$5.80. *Drill*: 450 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$6.60.

METAL.—*Quicksilver*: 550 flasks at \$168.50 to arrive, 50 flasks at \$168. *Iron Wire Nails*: 1,500 casks at \$5.30 to arrive. *Square and Round Rod-Iron*: 1,000 bundles at \$480.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$77.00 to \$119.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.20
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	2.90 to 3.55
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.60
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40 to 2.70
58 to 60 "	3.15 to 4.10
64 to 66 "	4.20 to 4.90
Fine.....	5.25 to 7.30
Book-folds	4.25 to 6.35
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.70 to 1.95
7lbs. (32 ")	2.00 to 2.30
6lbs. (32 ")	1.95 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 ")	2.80 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.00 to 3.55
Drills, English—40yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.50 to 4.65
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Brocades—Dyed

DAMASKS—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.18 to 0.15
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22 to 0.45

W Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0 25 to 2.50

COLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.85 to 2.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.50 to 8.00
Assorted.....	6.60 to 8.20
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	12.00 to 16.00
Assorted }	
Orleans—Plain	8.00 to 9.00
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 8.50

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.35 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.30 to —
Swedish Bar	6.75 to —
Small Round Rod	4.75 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Pig Non.....	35.50 to 36.50

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	7.60	to	—
Australian	7.50	to	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	38.00	to	—
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	38.00	to	—
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	38.00	to	—
Composition Nails	60.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00	to	—
Tin	68.50	to	—

Tin-Plates	7.50	to	—
Steel 1/2 to 1	5.75	to	—

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	168.00	to	—
Window Glass	6.30	to	—
Kerosene Oil	2.27	to	—

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 31st January. — Business generally continued dull during the earlier part of the week under review, but latterly a revival in demand for some of the principal stocks has been met with, and rates have in some instances improved upon the lowest points touched.

BANKS. — Hongkong and Shanghai have been out of favour, and have declined to \$617½ sellers. The London rate has receded to £63. 10s. Od. Nationals and Bank of China are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES. — Unions can be placed at \$342½. China Traders have sold at \$56, and further shares can probably be obtained. North Chinas are wanted at the improved rate of Tls. 19½. Cantons can probably be placed at the quoted rate of \$150. Yangtszes are unchanged at \$130.

FIRE INSURANCES. — Hongkongs have sold at \$267½ to \$370, and further shares can be placed at the higher rate. Chinas have sold at \$90.

SHIPPING. — Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$37½ and \$33, and are still in request. Indo-Chinas after dropping to \$134½ have recovered to \$136 buyers, with small sales recorded at intermediate rates. China Manilas sold at \$56 and are offering at the rate. Douglasses are out of favour at \$45 sellers. Star Ferries (old) have sold at the reduced rate of \$23, and the new shares continue on offer at \$9. Shell Transports are slightly better with possible buyers at £2. 2s. 6d.

REFINERIES. — China Sugars are weak with sellers at \$145. Luzons have improved to 30 buyers.

MINING. — Punjoms are wanted at \$4½. Raubs have been booked at \$8 to \$9 and close quiet. Charbonnages are still in request at \$525.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS. — Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been taken off the market to a fair extent at \$289, and are in further request at the rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold at \$97. New Amoy Docks are quiet at \$30.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS. — Hongkong Lands have further declined to \$182 with some sellers. West Points also are lower with sellers at \$60. Humphreys Estates are still in the market at \$13 ex dividend of \$1 per share paid on the 28th instant. Hongkong Hotels have dropped to \$131 with sales and further buyers. Oriente Hotels have receded to \$51 with sellers.

COTTON MILLS. — Hongkong Cottons are quiet at \$14. Quotations for the Northern stocks are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS. — Manila Investments are weak at \$45 sellers. Green Island Cements are obtainable at \$21 with small buyers at \$20½. A. S. Watsons have sold at \$15. Electrics continue in request at \$13½ and \$6½ for the old and new issues respectively. Fenwicks have declined to \$50 sellers. Ices have sold at \$20½ and can now be placed at \$205. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$11. United Asbestos are wanted at \$9½, and Bell's Asbestos at \$1. China Providents have been booked at \$9.30.

MEMOS. — Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 4th February. China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 11th February. Kow-

loon Land and Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 12th February—transfer books closed from the 3rd February. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 15th February.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$617½) (£63. 10s. Od.)
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	nominal.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.30.
China Sugar	\$100	\$145, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$14, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$50, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$30	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6½, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$8, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$13½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$205, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$97, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$175.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$280, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$150.
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$56, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$370, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 19½, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$342½.
Yangtze	\$60	\$130.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$182, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$13, ex div., sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$33.
West Point Building	\$50	\$60, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$30, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$525, buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$4½, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	4 cents.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4½	nominal.
Punjom	\$10	\$4½, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1½, sellers
Raubs	18	\$9.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$30.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$54, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$56, sales & sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$10.
Do. Ordinary	£7.10	£5. 0s. Od.
Do. Bonus	£5	£7. 10s.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$45, sellers
Jl., Canton and M.	\$15	\$38, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$138, buyers
Shel Transp. and Trading Co.	£1	£2. 2s. 2d.
Star Ferry	\$10	(\$23, sales) (\$9, sellers)
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½, sales & buyers
Do	\$10	\$15.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$20, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 31st January.—Freights continue as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul for prompt and 10½ cents per picul for middle February loading; to Philippines, 18 cents for prompt and 23/25 cents per picul for middle February loading; to one port north coast Java, 23 cents for prompt and 32 cents per picul for middle February loading. Bangkok to Hongkong, 15/20 cents per picul. Coal freights are weak. Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70; to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The American barque *Fred. P. Litchfield* has been chartered to load at Singapore for Mauritius, Rs. 23½ per ton of 50 cubic feet, and the American ship *Ivy* to load salt at Mantung for Singapore, at \$5,000 and timber at Singapore for Shanghai at \$14,000 in full. The British ship *Invermay* proceeds in ballast to Royal Roads for orders.

The following are the settlements:—

Ivy—American ship, 1,181 tons, Mantung to Singapore, \$5,000 in full.

Ivy—American ship, 1,181 tons, Singapore to Shanghai, \$14,000 in full.

Fred. P. Litchfield—American barque, 991 tons, Singapore to Mauritius, 23½ rupees per ton of 50 cubic feet.

Crusader—British steamer, 2,744 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore (part cargo), \$2.35 per ton.

Benalder—British steamer, 1,959 tons, Moji, Kuchinotzu or Karatzu to Singapore, \$2.35 per ton.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Moji to Hongkong (part cargo), \$1.70 per ton.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Moji to Amoy, \$2.25 per ton.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul (prompt).

Heim—Norwegian steamer, 1,046 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul (prompt).

Rubelsberg—German steamer, 1,379 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (30,000 piculs), 18 cents per picul (prompt).

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (prompt), 20 cents per picul.

Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (early February), 21 cents per picul.

Taicheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 22 cents per picul.

Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 23 cents per picul.

Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul (end February).

Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (middle February) 28 cents per picul.

Elg—Norwegian steamer, Saigon to one port north coast Java (216,000 piculs), 23 cents per picul (prompt).

Kutsang—British steamer, 1,481 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 32 cents; if two ports 34 cents per picul.

Elita Nossack—German steamer, 1,161 tons, hence to Saigon and back, \$4,600 in full.

Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, \$8,500 per month.

Peiyang—German steamer, 1,036 tons, monthly, 6 months, private terms (re-charter).

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Kawachi Maru* (str.), *Bingo Maru* (str.).
FOR LONDON.—*Coromandel* (str.), *Shanghai* (str.), *Bingo Maru* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.), *Glengarry* (str.), *Stentor* (str.), *Ajaz* (str.), *Idomeneus* (str.), *Ulysses* (str.), *Antenor* (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Tantalus* (str.), *Tydeus* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Laos* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.), *Bingo Maru* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.), *Ambria* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Ambria* (str.), *Konigsberg* (str.), *C. Ferd. Laeiss* (str.), *Andalusia* (str.), *Bamberg* (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.—*China* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Glenogle* (str.), *Kaga Maru* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Athenian* (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Strathgyle* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Hillglen* (str.), *Indrani* (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—*Knight Companion* (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Chanysha* (str.), *Kasuga Maru* (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Hiroshima Maru* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—*Pekin* (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Suisang* (str.).
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—*Bornida* (str.).

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 31st January.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1 10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.31
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.35
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.87 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	136 1/2
Bank, on demand	137
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	136 1/2
Bank, on demand	137
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	10 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 1/2
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	111 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 1/2
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.78
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	55.95
BAR SILVER per oz.	25 1/2

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

January—	
27, Australian, British str., from Yokohama.	
27, C. H. Kian, Dutch str., from Singapore.	
27, Hangsang, British str., from Swatow.	
27, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.	
27, Matoya Maru, Japanese sch., from Manila.	
27, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., from Haiphong.	
27, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
27, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.	
27, Tingsang, British str., from Moji.	
28, Clavering, British str., from Shanghai.	
28, Eclipse, British cruiser, from a cruise.	
28, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.	
28, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.	
28, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Moji.	
28, Sambia, German str., from Shanghai.	
28, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.	
28, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.	
28, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.	
28, Taisang, British str., from Canton.	
29, Anping, British str., from Shanghai.	
29, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.	
29, Bombay, British str., from London.	
29, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.	
29, China, German str., from Saigon.	
29, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.	
29, Flandria, German str., from Chinkiang.	
29, Hailong, British str., from Pakhoi.	
29, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.	
29, Hoihao, French str., from Kwongchauwan.	
29, Indrapura, British str., put back.	
29, Iltis, German gunboat, from Canton.	
29, Lucia, British bark, from Rajang.	
29, Store Nordiske, Danish str., from a cruise.	
30, Arnold Luyken, German str., from Moji.	
30, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.	
30, Dunslaw, British barque, from Cardiff.	
30, Furst Bismarck, German flagship, from Tsingtau.	
31, Ivy, American ship, from Modaval, B.C.	
31, M. Rickmers, German str., from Cardiff.	
31, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.	
31, Ocean, British battleship, from Amoy.	
31, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., from London.	
31, Benclutha, British str., from Canton.	
31, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.	

30, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 30, Progress, German str., from Touron.
 31, Amoy German str., from Haiphong.
 31, Chelydra, British str., from Hoihow.
 31, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 31, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 31, Taishan, British str., from Bangkok.
 31, Tiger, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.

DEPARTURES.

January—
 27, Antonio McLeod, Amr. str., for Iloilo.
 27, Benclutha, British str., for Canton.
 27, Blenheim, British cruiser, for Amoy.
 27, Caledonien, French str., for Europe.
 27, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Cressy, British cruiser, for a cruise.
 27, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 27, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 27, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 27, Terrible, British cruiser, for a cruise.
 28, Carinthia, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 28, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Chinkiang, British str., for Saigon.
 28, Endymion, British cruiser, for a cruise.
 28, Hailan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 28, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Ness, British str., for Moji.
 28, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 28, Thea, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 28, Yushun, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Anping, British str., for Canton.
 29, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 29, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., for Amoy.
 29, Hanyang, British str., for Moji.
 29, Nankin, British str., for Bombay.
 29, Nanyo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 29, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 29, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
 30, Australian, British str., for Sydney.
 30, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 30, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., for Sarawak.
 30, Elita Nossack, German str., for Saigon.
 30, Flandria, German str., for Canton.
 30, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 30, Paoing, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Robt. Dickinson, British str., for Amoy.
 30, Sambia, German str., for Hamburg.
 30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Sydney.
 31, Benclutha, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Bombay, British str., for Yokohama.
 31, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
 31, Hoihao, French str., for Kwongchauwan.
 31, Iltis, German gunboat, for Shanghai.
 31, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 31, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 31, Shirley, British str., for Kutchinotzu.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per American mail, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Mrs. L. F. Whilden. Misses P. Cosgrave, Katherine Dillon and McDaniels, Messrs. W. S. Edwards, John Enterline, J. A. Kelly, W. Lawrence, G. D. Taylor, Winfield Robbins and H. D. Washburn; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Kinch and Mr. H. R. Duniway.

Per Caledonien, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mrs. Leven, Mr. and Mrs. Talleri, Messrs. Pisault, Faseno, Lorenza, Luigi, Daniele, Giacomo, Luigi, and Major Cooper; for Saigon, from Nagasaki, Mr. Mori; from Shanghai, Messrs. Gallenzi and Marucchi; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Messrs. Ehrhardt and Strauss; for Bombay, from Kobe, Mr. Batlevalla; from Nagasaki, Mr. Price; for Marseilles from Shanghai, Lieuts. Ringue and Arnault, Messrs. Verourdart, Gillot, Salmon and Casanova.

Per Dr. Hans Jurg Kiaer, from Haiphong and Hoihow, Mr. Gauctiet.

Per Salazie, for Hongkong, from Marseilles via Colombo. Mr. and Mrs. F. de Menezes and child; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. Clifford Wilkinson and Golpaldas; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Delebecque, Messrs. C. Nicolas, Campion, Lantellier, Saglietto and Chotirmall; for Shanghai, from Port Said, Messrs. Papaperaki, Pravela, G. Papadimos and M. Papadoulos; from Marseilles via Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Augustin, Mr. and Mrs. Prunier, Revs. Paul Joseph, Beaubis, Boucher, Liglier, Tisserand and Vial, Sisters Victoire, Gabriell, Stephan and Louise and Mr. Paretto; from

Saigon, Mr. Longchamps Devill; for Nagasaki, from Singapore, Mr. Christo Corillo, Mrs. S. Oheytzu and Mrs. Yamasaki; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Emile Bonnechaux; from Singapore, Mr. Phieger and child.

Per Thales, from Coast Ports, Miss Leslie, Miss Lambert, Rev. Walker and Mr. W. Hall.

Per Yawata Maru, from Japan, for Hongkong, Mrs. M. R. Simpson, Messrs. F. Oviedo, Macguire, W. Maxon, W. Young, B. F. Hamersly and Jallon, Mr. and Mrs. Mihara and two children, Capt. Kawamoto, Miss Shimomi, Messrs. Hirose, Kusakabe, and S. Tsukahara; for Manila, Messrs. H. Blum and Williams.

Per Guthrie, from Australia, Mr. F. G. Grant and Miss Grant, Messrs. Lemm, E. Guy, W. O. E. Stanford, A. J. Charpy, J. Knight, E. Cooper, F. Jool, C. Wise, T. Lemon, and C. Martinez and daughter.

Per Hiroshima Maru, from Yokohama, &c., Mr. and Mrs. John A. Slohi.

Per Canton, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. Nelson and Lehmann.

Per Bombay, for Hongkong, from London, Col. and Mrs. Ferrier; from Singapore, Messrs. White, Lancaster, McGuire, and Clifford Wilkinson; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mr. Arnould.

Per Coromandel, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. J. C. P. Perry, R.N., F. Robinson, R.N., R. Howton, R.N., Harris, H. J. Da Costa and F. Gysin, Capt. Kendrick, Lieuts. Pearson, Storr and Dupon, R.N.; for London, Mrs. Bourne, Mr. A. Gracie and Rev. W. H. Murray; from Kobe, for Brindisi, Mrs. Abbott and child.

Per Sanuki Maru, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. P. Wilson and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy and Miss Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. Conolly and two children, Lieut.-Col. R. F. Johnson, Dr. L. A. Knapp, Master H. Best, and Mrs. Oda; for Shanghai, Mrs. B. Dewing and child, Mr. and Mrs. Railton and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Murray and two children; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Melhuish and Mr. Tokishige; for Yokohama, Mr. Alsop; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Foy.

DEPARTED.

Per Hamburg, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. N. Wilmson, Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Clapp, Messrs. F. B. Land, H. Rodger, M. Arratoon, M. Omari, S. Williams, W. Robertson, C. Reiter, H. E. Krol; for Nagasaki, Mr. Landis; for Kobe, Mrs. Schunter, Mr. H. Turner; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Anderson, Mrs. and Miss B. M. Hawley, Miss Correa and Mr. C. Weyersberg.

Per Prinz Heinrich, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Fernald, Mr. A. Wood; for Colombo, Mr. F. O. Wannick; for Naples, Mrs. L. A. Musso and child; for Genoa, Mrs. J. J. Francis, Miss de Saint Exupery, Messrs. Geo. W. Muller, D. Henk, Carl Lehmann and A. Russ; for London, Rev. and Mrs. Tope, Mrs. G. A. Watkins and Mr. G. Ward.

Per Rosetta Maru, for Manila, Mrs. Canaga and child, Mr. and Mrs. Vidal, Miss E. Bittmann, Messrs. H. E. Barbar, A. P. Ponce, J. H. Hartman, C. E. Fergusson, Paul Picard, McMullen, John W. Morris and James Kennedy, Mrs. J. Yanagiya, Mrs. M. Seki, Miss K. Yoshimoto, Messrs. Y. Jo, S. Miyasako, Jisuke Yanagiya, Yasuda Seki and Fukuju Nagata.

Per Tartar, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Capt. W. B. Hulke, Messrs. L. Witt, W. W. Rich, C. L. Wong and Inspector Vernieux; for Kobe, Mr. S. Komor and infant and Mr. C. C. Felton; for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hurst.

Per Australian, for Timor, Mrs. Borges and child, Mrs. A. Silva, Revs. J. M. Gonsalves, V. D. dos Reis and J. A. da S. Rosario, Capt. A. E. da Silva, Lieut. A. T. da Rosa, Ensign A. Carlos, Dr. J. A. F. la M. Palha and Mr. R. D. Quintas; for Sydney, Mrs. Tilburn and four children, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Corfield and Dr. Ballance.

Per Yawata Maru, for Australia, Sir John Hall, K.C.M.G., Miss Emmie Smith, Messrs. Fred. Schmitz, H. B. Duniway, P. B. Davies, G. F. Witton, J. H. McHenry, B. A. Rose, K. Rijhoomal, and S. Isukahara, Mr. and Mrs. J. Matsuyama.

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